

Connally Defends Nixon

New York

John B. Connally said last night that attacks on President Nixon had "the smell of a vendetta" and called on politicians demanding the President's impeachment to "put up or shut up."

In one of the strongest defenses of the President by any major politician in the last week, Connally, who was believed to be Mr. Nixon's first choice to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice president, deplored what he said was "a highly partisan, strident, blatant attempt to undermine a president and destroy his effectiveness."

"We don't need executive tyranny in this country but

neither do we need legislative or judicial tyranny," Connally said in a speech at the annual Navy League dinner.

"There is an element of hatred in this controversy — the smell of a vendetta — and if wiser and cooler heads in both political parties don't take control we are in for a much greater national trauma than we have heretofore experienced," Connally said.

Connally's speech was a change from statements he made Sunday to the effect that Mr. Nixon owed the country a better explanation than he had given for the dismissal of Archibald Cox.

New York Times