

CONNALLY SCORES ATTACKS ON NIXON

Finds 'Smell of a Vendetta'
—Says 'Put Up or Shut
Up' on Impeachment

By FRANK LYNN

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, Mr. 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," Mr. Connally said in a speech prepared for delivery at the annual Navy League dinner at the New York Hilton Hotel.

"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," Mr. Connolly said.

Session With Marchi

The former Texas Governor and one-time Secretary of the Navy combined his Navy League speech with some limited local politicking including a picture-taking session with State Senator John J. Marchi, the Republican mayoral candidate.

He also scheduled a joint news conference with Representative Charles Sandman Jr., the Republican gubernatorial candidate in New Jersey, in Paramus today.

Mr. Connally's appearance here—the second in the last month—was considered politically significant since it is the base of Governor Rockefeller, an almost certain rival for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1976.

Mr. Rockefeller has declined to take a stand on the furor over President Nixon's dismissal of Archibald Cox, the special Watergate prosecutor. Ironically, Mr. Connolly said on Sunday that Mr. Nixon owed the country a better explanation than he had given for the dismissal of Mr. Cox.

But last night Mr. Connally put aside any such reservations in his attack on the Nixon crit-



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John B. Connally

ics. "It's time to talk about crime in high places and we have been doing that but it's also time to recognize and spotlight hypocrisy and demagoguery in high places," Mr. Connally declared.

He said that some unnamed Congressman had "schemed to make a hostage" of Representative Gerald R. Ford, who was apparently picked for the Vice Presidency over Mr. Connally largely on the theory that he would be more acceptable to Congress, which must confirm the nomination.

Mr. Connally said that Congress should speed up the confirmation proceedings to "begin restoring some stability to this Government."

He told his defense-conscious audience that the defense establishment would be "worthless indeed if we are so foolish a to destroy the ability of the President to act and the credibility of the President to represent this nation in the councils of the world."