



JOHN B. CONNALLY
... defends President

Connally Asks Tape Disclosure

By Jules Witcover
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PARAMUS, N.J., Oct. 31—
Former Secretary of the
Treasury John B. Connally
today called for public dis-
closure of "at least a sum-
mary or some conclusions"
of the White House tapes on
Watergate to satisfy the
doubts of the American peo-
ple.

Connally, in a press con-
ference here before a small
fund-raising lunch for the
Republican gubernatorial
candidate, Rep. Charles
Sandman, said some such
disclosure is at the heart of
restoring public confidence
in President Nixon.

"There is no question but
what this administration has
lost a great deal of confi-
dence," Connally said. "I
think the American people
have reached the point
where they want to know
what's on the tapes.

"I think this has been the
key, focal point... the
idea's been built up in a
mind of a great many peo-
ple that perhaps (the
President) was hiding some-
thing," he said.

Connally said he thought
that U.S. District Court
Chief Judge John J. Sirica,
who is to receive the tapes,
or the grand jury if he turns

them over, will release a
summary.

[Connally's comments on
the tapes came before White
House counsel J. Fred Buz-
hardt told Judge Sirica that
two of the White House tapes
sought by the court did not
exist.]

Connally, who has said he
believes the President
should have given an earlier
and better explanation of
his position on the tapes,
otherwise broadly defended
Mr. Nixon today. He said he
saw no evidence to warrant
impeachment proceedings,
and he joined in the admin-
istration's attack on former
Watergate Special Prosecu-
tor Archibald Cox.

"I know of no creditable
statements by a creditable
witness... that (indicated)
the President is guilty of
any high crimes or misde-
meanors that under the Con-
stitution makes him liable
for impeachment," he said.
"Unless someone can pro-
duce that kind of evidence,
then I think they ought to
quit talking about it."

The former Texas gover-
nor stood by his charge in a
New York speech Tuesday
that attacks on the Presi-
dent had "the smell of ven-
detta" about them. But he
again declined to name
those in Congress he said
had "schemed to make a
hostage" of Vice President-
designate Gerald R. Ford
to win White House release
of the Watergate tapes.

Connally cited as part of
the Vendetta Cox's acknowl-
edgement that he had told
Sens. Edward M. Kennedy
(D-Mass.) and Philip A. Hart
(D-Mich.) about confidential
testimony by former Attor-
ney General Richard G.
Kieindienst in the ITT anti-
trust settlement contro-
versy.

"I think it is a bit unusual
that a man as experienced
as Professor Cox in a mo-
ment of self-described care-
lessness would do what he'd
done," Connally said. "It's
not surprising to me, very
frankly. I think it's entirely
in character that he did tell
Senator Kennedy and Sena-
tor Hart... I'm just de-
lighted that it's become pub-
lic knowledge."

Of that settlement, after
an ITT pledge of up to \$400,-
000 for the 1972 Republican
National Convention, Con-
nally said ITT "took as bad
a drubbing" as he had seen
in any such deal with the
government.