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John B. Connally speaking
in New Orleans.

Nixon and Congress Scored by Connally On Their Leadership

NEW ORLEANS, March 3 (UPI) — Former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally said today that neither President Nixon nor Congress was providing the nation with the type of leadership the American people wanted.

Mr. Connally, speaking at a news conference before an address to the Louisiana Republican Convention, said that the President's popularity among Americans was at an all-time low but that Congress's popularity was even lower.

In response to a question, Mr. Connally, who switched from the Democratic to the Republican party last year, said that neither the President nor Congress "is providing the degree of leadership that the people expect at this point in time."

"I think he's capable of it," Mr. Connally said of Mr. Nixon. "I don't know whether circumstances are such that he will do it. I think that depends on how aggressive he is, how articulate he is and how strongly he advocates positions and then defends those positions."

"In my judgment, I think you can assume it's not going to be a good year for incumbents," he said. "The President's popularity is low, yet the respect and feeling that people have for the Congress is even lower."

The Republican national chairman, George Bush, in an earlier address, referred to a recent nationwide opinion poll showing Congress's popularity below that of Mr. Nixon. "I can assure you the President will never be as low as 21 per cent in the polls," Mr. Bush said.