



Associated Press

John B. Connally, accompanied by President Ford, tells reporters at the White House that he endorsed the President's candidacy for the Republican Presidential nomination.

W/G 10 OF 2 EASING UP  
**CONNALLY FAVORS  
 FORD'S CANDIDACY  
 AS 'BETTER CHOICE'**

JUL 28 1976

Says Reagan's Selection of  
 Schweiker Helped Shift  
 Away From Neutrality

**CONSERVATIVES REVOLT**

Many Republican Delegates  
 in South Said to Reassess  
 Support for Californian  
 NYTimes

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON  
 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 27—

John B. Connally endorsed today President Ford's candidacy for the Republican Presidential nomination as other conservatives in the party rebelled against Ronald Reagan's design-

nation of a liberal to be his prospective running mate.

"I think it's quite clear, between the two men, that the President is unmistakably the better choice," Mr. Connally said as Mr. Ford stood beaming beside him on the White House grounds.

The endorsement by the former Texas Governor and Cabinet official, arranged after Mr. Reagan announced yesterday that if nominated he would choose Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania as his running mate, seemed to strengthen the assessment of leading Republicans that Mr. Reagan's gamble was likely to backfire.

The timing by the silver-haired Texan also encouraged renewed speculation that Mr. Ford would display his gratitude by settling on Mr. Connally as his running mate.

Mr. Connally, who had been courted by both candidates and was a favorite of many in the party to join a campaign ticket of either rival, said that the former California Governor's selection of Senator Schweiker had helped him to give up his neutrality in the Presidential contest.

**Portents Are Cited**

There were a number of other portents that Mr. Reagan's bold announcement of his choice of a liberal Eastern for a running mate—a clear overture to uncommitted or "soft" Ford delegates in the Northeast—was working to Mr. Reagan's disadvantage.

They included the following:

☐ Authoritative Mississippi Republicans said that the state's 30-member delegation to the Republican National Convention, once considered a safe Reagan preserve, would unite behind the President by the end of this week and perhaps as

early as tomorrow. Such a decision by the Deep South delegation would severely cripple Mr. Reagan's candidacy.

☐ Gov. Meldrim Thomson Jr. of New Hampshire, one of the first Republican conservatives to endorse Mr. Reagan, withdrew the endorsement publicly today and said, "It is a sad day in American history when a public leader of Reagan's stature would abandon all that he has stood for."

☐ Across the South, in states such as South Carolina, Louisiana and Virginia, where Mr.

**Continued on Page 10, Column 3**



Reagan's challenge to the incumbent President derived much of its strength, conservatives said that they were outraged, and that many were reassessing their support of the Californian.

Two members of the House of Representatives who were early supporters of Mr. Reagan, Representatives Philip M. Crane of Illinois and Steven D. Symms of Idaho, reaffirmed their endorsements, but said that they would work to block Mr. Schweiker's nomination for Vice President if Mr. Reagan won the Presidential nomination.

There were no indications today of any major shifts of allegiance in the four states where the Schweiker announcement was meant to have its impact—New York, New Jersey, Delaware and the Senator's own state, Pennsylvania.

A spokesman for Mr. Schweiker said that he telephoned Pennsylvania delegates until midnight last night and all day today, and that "a number of them were moving from Mr. Ford to an uncommitted stance.

The President's campaign aides said, however, that they had reached 95 of the 103 Pennsylvanians, and that 82 reaffirmed commitments to Mr. Ford, five continued to back Mr. Reagan and eight were unpledged.

The ferment caused by Mr. Reagan's dramatic announcement was centered in areas where he had his most significant delegate support.

Mr. Connally was said by his political associates to have described the voting record of Senator Schweiker as "diametrically opposed" to the positions that Mr. Reagan proclaimed in winning all 100 Texas delegates in that state's primary May 1.

#### 45-Minute Meeting

The associates said that Mr. Connally concluded that the resulting disaffection in Texas freed him to endorse Mr. Ford. He and the President spoke by telephone late yesterday, met for 45 minutes at the White House this afternoon and then announced the endorsement jointly to reporters. Both said that they had not discussed Mr. Connally's prospects as a running mate on a Ford ticket.

The situation in Mississippi was even more perilous to Mr. Reagan's candidacy than it was in Texas. The 30-member Mississippi delegation decided only two days ago to remain neutral until the convention opened Aug. 16; but well-placed leaders of the delegation said that they were ready now to endorse Mr. Ford when he addresses the Mississippians on Friday.

The key to the potentially major switch in Mississippi was Clarke Reed, the party chairman and delegation leader, who had been describing himself until today as "leaning" to Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Reed declined to discuss the possible move to Mr. Ford, but he conceded today in a telephone interview that "there could be a change" in the delegation's two-day-old decision to remain uncommitted.

He said that he had left the Democratic Party because of his deep rooted opposition to "philosophically split tickets," and that "I have much consternation" about a Reagan-Schweiker ticket.

He described such a ticket as a symptom of "cynicism" and said that he opposed such an attempt at regional and ideological balance because "you elect one thing, you think, and if the President dies, you get another."

Several allies of both the

President and Mr. Reagan said that the Mississippi unrest was typical of that in Louisiana, South Carolina and Virginia. Gov. James B. Edwards of South Carolina, an ardent Reagan supporter, went into seclusion to assess the situation. His associates said they that they would not be surprised if he called the state's 36 delegates—25 of whom are committed, but not bound by law, to Mr. Reagan—to a meeting early next week.

One of the Governor's allies said that Mr. Edwards was aware that the 158 delegates in South Carolina, Louisiana, Virginia and Mississippi were not bound by law or party rule to either candidate, and that concerted action could thus be "crucial" to them.

In Colorado, Jack Wilson held a news conference to announce that he was switching to uncommitted after having been "totally committed" to Mr. Reagan. He said that the Schweiker choice was "incomprehensible," and that Reagan delegates had told him that they also felt, as Mr. Wilson did, "betrayed" by it.

Representative John M. Ashbrook of Ohio, an archconservative Republican, described himself today as a "former" Reagan supporter and said that the selection of Senator Schweiker was "the dumbest thing I ever heard of."

#### An Incipient Revolt

Richard A. Viguerie, the publisher of "Conservative Digest," who is a leading fund raiser for conservative causes, said that Mr. Reagan's action represented "a coalition built on expediency and hypocrisy."

One conservative on Capitol Hill, who asked not to be identified, said "there is an incipient revolt, and it is growing rapidly," and that some of Mr. Reagan's allies now thought that the only way to stem it would be to confront him with a demand for reassurance that his Cabinet and White House staff would not be made up of individuals as liberal as Mr. Schweiker is.

The conservatives were said to be discussing with Mr. Reagan's campaign staff an attempt to forge "a treaty of Santa Barbara," in which the Californian would guarantee, in a meeting at his Santa Barbara ranch, to put dogmatic Conservatives in such positions as Secretary of State and chief of the White House staff if he became President.