

CBS: "Campaign 76,"
Pye [?] Chamberlin
transcribed from tape

5 Aug 76

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Ford aides kept dangling the notion that Ford's top choice for Veep is John Connally of Texas. Republican congressman [William] Cohen of Maine who studied Connally closely during the impeachment hearings, came to the White House to try to warn President Ford off. Cohen explained to reporters:

Cohen [voice]: I think it would only tend to concentrate the scope of the campaign on the issue of Watergate. I think the Democratic party is trying unfairly to tie President Ford into the Watergate scandal [scandals?]. I think the pardon issue is a legitimate one. I think what they're doing is unfair. They're trying to say that President Ford is part of the Watergate scandal, and that's clearly not the case, and I think that Connally's presence on the ticket would only place a further burden for President Ford to deal with.
[Complete on this subject.]