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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

A PROFILE OF JOHN B. CONNALLY

Washington, December 16, 1970 -- John B. Connally, Junior, named December 14 by President Nixon to be Secretary of the Treasury, has had a great deal of experience in government at both the state and national level and a highly successful business career.

Long associated with the Democratic Party of his native State, Texas, Mr. Connally served as President John F. Kennedy's Secretary of the Navy until he resigned to run for Governor of Texas in 1962. He won and was re-elected in 1964 and 1966 and decided not to run again in 1968.

Mr. Connally has been politically aligned with former President Lyndon Johnson. He served as secretary to Mr. Johnson when he was a Congressman from Texas and later as his assistant when he was a Senator.

A lifelong Democrat, Mr. Connally has been considered a conservative rather than a liberal and has been engaged some hard political fighting within the Democratic Party.

In nominating a leading Democrat to be the next Secretary of the Treasury, President Nixon says it will add a bipartisan viewpoint to the Administration's economic policy making. Mr. Connally will be succeeding David M. Kennedy who is resigning.

The President said he will submit the Connally nomination to the Senate for approval when the 92nd Congress convenes January 20. Meanwhile, Secretary Kennedy has agreed to continue in the post during the preparation of the Federal fiscal 1972 budget.

Mr. Kennedy's resignation will become effective February 1, or when his successor is confirmed, the President said. Mr. Nixon noted, however, that Mr. Kennedy will remain in the Administration as an Ambassador-at-large at the State Department specializing in international economic and financial matters.

Although never a banker or an economist, the new Secretary of the Treasury is a lawyer and has represented clients in a wide variety of business enterprises.

As Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Connally won high praise from President Kennedy and officials of the Defense Department. Armed Forces Management magazine, an unofficial publication, once said of him, "he knows what the Navy's operating problems are and what is needed to solve them."

In his last two terms as Governor of Texas he won by receiving more than 72 percent of the votes both times. While Governor he devoted much attention to education, water resource control and public and mental health problems.

A tall graying and handsome man, Mr. Connally in some ways recalls the bearing and manner of former President Johnson. As the New York Times once described him, "suave, with a touch of the Eastern part of the United States intruding upon his Texas manner, he is a hard man to dislike."

Although considered wealthy today, Mr. Connally was one of seven children of a poor farmer in Texas.

He attended public schools and worked his way through law school by laboring on highways.

As a student at the University of Texas he held a number of elective offices, including President of the Students' Association and won a number of oratorical awards.

During World War Two as a naval officer, he was a member of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's staff in Algiers where he worked on plans for the invasion of Italy.

He then went to the Pacific where he was awarded medals for bravery as a fighter plane director aboard the aircraft carrier USS Essex.

Mr. Connally has been married since 1940 to fellow student at the University of Texas, the former Idanell Brill. They have three children.

When President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas Texas, in 1963, Mr. Connally, as Governor of Texas was riding with him and was wounded seriously by gunfire.

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