

The original documents are located in Box 16, folder “Connally, John” of the Richard B. Cheney Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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The President Ford Committee

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1828 L Street, N.W.
Suite 250
Washington, D. C. 20036
(202) 833-8920

September 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: BO CALLAWAY
SUBJECT: Conversation with John Connally

John Connally is not willing to publicly endorse your campaign at the formation of the Texas Committee to be announced on Saturday of this week. I have talked with him, however, and he strongly indicates that he will be with you at the proper time. He said that he did not want to be speaking out on issues now that might embarrass you. In my own opinion, however, the real reason that he is not supporting you now has more to do with keeping his options open.

I do believe that we want to continue to work with him as much as possible. He certainly is the most important figure with Independents and Democrats that we have working for us in Texas.

He indicated that he would address the Women's Federation on Saturday morning, September 13, just before you address them on that same date. He will attend a luncheon at Trammel Crow's house that noon, and said that he would look forward to talking with you at that time.

I don't know whether it will be appropriate for you to have a private talk with him at that time or not, but anything that you can do to encourage him to make his support more open should be helpful.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 7, 1976

Handwritten initials

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.*
SUBJECT: M.C. Tom Railsback (R-ILL)/John Connally

Representative Tom Railsback called Friday evening from Illinois to apologize to the President and "explain" the furor over his and Representative Bill Cohen's comments about John Connally.

"I feel badly and want to let the President know what happened," Railsback commented.

Railsback said he was being interviewed by Bob Owens, a reporter for Jack Anderson, and the vice-presidency nomination was mentioned. Railsback said he commented that he had reservations about Connally because of the milk fund and Owens said, "What are you going to do about it," and Railsback responded that he has asked for an appointment to see the President. Jack Anderson reported this the next morning.

Railsback also indicated he was sending a letter of explanation to the President. The letter is attached.

Railsback indicated he will support the President regardless of who is nominated for vice-president.



TOM RAILSBACK
19TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
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COUNTIES:

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 6, 1976

ROOM 228
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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE

The Honorable Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I believe some explanation is due you regarding recent press accounts concerning my feelings about John Connally as a potential Vice-Presidential candidate.

It never was my intention to place this matter in the public eye. The current situation developed after a discussion with Bob Owens, a reporter for columnist Jack Anderson, who was surveying Republican Members of Congress concerning Presidential and Vice-Presidential politics. The reporter asked me my opinion of John Connally as a potential candidate for the Vice-Presidency. I replied that I have certain reservations about Mr. Connally, particularly in light of the fact that the Democrats appear to be making Watergate one of their main campaign themes (by use of innuendoes, implications, and references to labels such as "the Nixon-Ford Administration", etc.) Asked what I was going to do about my concerns, I replied that I had requested a meeting with you to present to you materials the House Committee on the Judiciary had gathered in the course of the impeachment proceedings. I still believe that these materials are very relevant to your consideration of John Connally, particularly Book VI-Part 2 of the published hearings before the Judiciary Committee dealing with political contributions by milk producers.

Subsequently, Jack Anderson reported in his radio show of July 30 that Congressman Bill Cohen and I fear Mr. Connally would hurt the ticket if he became the Vice-Presidential nominee, and would express our reservations to you. With that, Mr. Cohen and I have been besieged with phone calls from the media, which I believe has blown this matter all out of proportion.

I am not trying to substitute my judgment for yours, nor am I involved in a "stop-Connally movement", although he would not be my choice. I did want you to know my concerns. I have asked Tom Mooney of the Judiciary Committee staff to compile the relevant material to be delivered to you for your consideration.

I hope this explains the situation, and best of luck at the Convention!

Sincerely,

Tom

TOM RAILSBACK
Member of Congress

