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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

President Ford Committee

1828 L STREET, N.W., SUITE 250, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 457-6400

September 22, 1976

MEETING WITH GOVERNOR JOHN CONNALLY

Wednesday, September 22, 1976

4:30 p.m.

The Oval Office

FROM: JAMES A. BAKER III



I. Purpose

To encourage the Governor to reserve a few days in October for campaigning at appropriate events.

II. Background, Participants and Press Plan

A. Background: Governor Connally could be effective in various locations across the country in the last two weeks in October.

Considering the demands on his time in campaigning throughout the country for GOP Congressional candidates, it is important that he be asked now to reserve time in October.

B. Participants: Governor John Connally, Jim Baker

C. Press Plan: No press coverage

III. Talking Points

1. I want to personally thank you for being out on the point and all you are doing to help out in the campaign, particularly with our Congressional candidates and as the Texas PFC Chairman.
2. With regard to Texas, I would hope that you would reserve a few days in October exclusively for campaigning for the PFC. I realize your schedule is packed and you're moving around the country, but we would like if possible to suggest a few high level events where we feel you could be particularly helpful to our effort.
3. Jim Baker will work with you on this, and I'll really appreciate it if you could work this out.

Provisions not 'thought out'

Ford should veto tax bill, Connally says

By PHIL HEVENER
Post Reporter

President Ford should veto the massive tax bill awaiting his signature, John Connally suggested during a Houston press conference Friday.

Connally, who is state chairman of Ford's election campaign in Texas, made his suggestion during a meeting called to announce formation of a Texans for Ford movement in the state.

He also was scheduled to be in the Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio and Austin areas Friday to talk about the new group which will be headed by former University of Texas regent Wales Madden of Amarillo.

"This tax bill contains a great many provisions that are not very carefully thought out," said the man who was

secretary of the Treasury under President Nixon. "It would destroy the ability of the industrial base of the country to raise the capital it needs," he added.

Responding to a question, Connally denied that Ford's failure to sign the bill would be "political suicide" in an election year. He insisted Congress still has time to approve tax-cut extensions that would benefit most wage earners.

In a similar vein, Connally insisted Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter's economic plans would be "disastrous" for Texas.

He cited what he said is Carter's support of repealing right-to-work laws, adding, "Ideas such as these would not be in the best interest of Texas.

"We have the issues on our side," he insisted. "And the purpose of Texans for Ford will be to concentrate on issues ger-

mane to the state of Texas."

He predicted Reagan supporters will line up behind Ford but added, "Any time you talk about a Republican carrying Texas you're talking about a struggle."

Madden released a list of steering committee members for the Texans for Ford that includes 57 people in Houston, 21 in Dallas, 12 in Fort Worth, 10 in Austin and 11 in San Antonio.

Later in Austin, Madden admitted that he has voted in the past for state and national Republican candidates even though he has been active in the state Democratic party and has attended state Democratic conventions. He also was active in the Democrats for Nixon movement four years ago.

Headquarters offices for the group will be opened next week in Austin at the American Bank Building and Madden

said additional steering committee members will be announced later.

Touching briefly on other issues related to himself and the campaign, Connally conceded the GOP platform is not as Ford himself would have written it. "But the President has adopted it and he is going to run on it."

Connally insisted he has not even thought about whether he'd accept a Cabinet post if Ford is elected.

And he doesn't believe Ford will or should dump Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

"The secretary is involved in some very sensitive negotiations on the African continent and no responsible president would change a secretary under these circumstances."

Connally said polls show Kissinger is not a campaign liability.