

Wednesday, May 2, 1973

CONNOLLY

At long last - the "other shoe". Former Texas Governor John Connolly announcing today that he is switching allegiance from the Democratic to the Republican party. This in a brief statement at Houston which he later discussed at a press conference.

"I think the Democratic party has moved farther to the left now - said Governor Connolly "than at any time in my lifetime; it's left - it's left the mainstream of the people." While "the Republican party has moved from the right" he continued - "and now represents the broad spectrum of activities in the political arena."

Connolly further saying: "I seek no office - political or appointive." But, "I had a choice" - he went on; I could either retire from political life - or I could join the Republican party." And he added: "I don't feel like I'm ready to retire yet."

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Connolly was then asked - "why now in the midst of the Watergate controversy?" to which he replied that

Watergate was - no reason for acting or failing to act.

"There's no question - said he - that Watergate is a sordid mess." But he stressed that Watergate was "a silly, stupid and illegal act performed by individuals;" and said he "the Republican party didn't do it."

WASHINGTON FOLLOW ^{Connolly} ~~HOUSTON~~

~~Back~~ ^{Gov.} In Washington one of the first to welcome Connolly into the fold was Vice President Spiro Agnew. In a prepared statement ^{he said:} ~~saying~~

"It is with great pleasure - that I welcome John Connolly to the Republican Party. ~~Adding:~~ "He is a talented a personable man - an effective and articulate spokesman for traditional American values."

The Vice President going on to say:

"Mr. Connolly's action demonstrates that the Republican party - is the appropriate ~~political~~ political vehicle for ~~the~~ most Americans - the one that best accommodates - their hopes and aspirations."

WHITE HOUSE REACTION

The White House - was also quick to applaud the Connolly decision. Press Secretary Ron Ziegler saying: "The President is - of course - pleased to have a man of Governor Connolly's ability and competence - in the Republican party. Ziegler went to add however, he has "no knowledge" of any new job Governor Connolly might now get.

VIETNAM

In Northernmost South Vietnam - two helicopters chartered by the International Peace Keeping Commission - were fired on today from Communist held territory. No injuries nor were the helicopters damaged. But Canada's Michel Gauvin - called the incident - deplorable.

KISSINGER

Here at home - Henry Kissinger was saying today that Communist denials notwithstanding - he still expects to meet with Hanoi's Le Duc Tho. Dr. Kissinger insisting: "There is an agreement to meet." Adding the only question - is when.

Meanwhile Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William Sullivan was completing a round of preliminary talks in Paris. Enroute home - Sullivan saying: "The North Vietnamese will have to make a choice soon - whether they are going to have full and faithful implementation of the Vietnam peace agreement - or take the path that leads back into an unfortunate military situation."

BEIRUT

In the Middle East - Beirut - the kidnapping of two Lebanese soldiers; leading to another clash today - between ~~Lebanese~~ Lebanese Army troops and Palestinian guerrillas. The battle running far into the night with numerous casualties on both sides. This a near repeat of a previous clash - that almost led to Civil War back in Nineteen Sixty-Nine.

SENATE

Today's date - May ~~thirteen~~ second - the first anniversary of the death of J Edgar Hoover.

This leading to a call today from Senator Byrd of West Virginia - for the speedy appointment of a permanent successor to the late F B I director.

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"I earnestly hope" - said Byrd - "that the President will act ~~very~~ quickly to name a non-partisan; highly qualified director - before the serious damage that has already been done to the Bureau in the last year become^s irreparable."

F B I

More on the same - from F B I headquarters where new acting director William Ruckelshaus was meeting today - with his special agents from across the country; expressing sympathy with those who telegraphed the White House last week - urging the appointment of a career man as J. Edgar Hoover's successor. Ruckelshaus nevertheless insisting: "There are men in this country - both inside and outside the Bureau - who have a broad back ground in law enforcement and the investigative process; and it is from these ranks - that a new director should be named." "I can assure you" - he said - "the President recognized that, too."

Earlier at an official reception at the White House President Nixon reminisced about his first meeting with Brandt a few years ago - when the latter had just lost a bid to head the German government.

The President recalling how he said at the time: "Well Mr. Brandt - don't give up - you know you can come back - and I'm an expert on coming back." The President adding: "So here we are - Chancellor of the Federal Republic - President of the United States - each of us in office until Nineteen Seventy-Six and just think of all that can happen."

BRANDT

Another visiting Chief of State today addressed the National Press Club in Washington. West Germany's Willy Brandt - warning of the dangers of "blue-eyed" idealism in dealing with the Soviet Union. "Neither wishful thinking nor the invocation of peace - will suffice," said he. "What is required is hard work - and a careful consideration of interests - so^o the biggest accumulation of armaments and forces that ever existed can "be slowly reduced on either side."

Willy Brandt also saying "Europeans and Americans need each other - in a world of far reaching change!" "We need each other for reasons of security" said he. "We need each other - as commercial and economic partners; we must not allow difficulties in one sector unnecessarily to affect other sectors." Chancellor Brandt adding that "constructive dialogue between Europe and America could reach an interesting climax - when President Nixon visits the continent this fall."

MADRID

At Madrid - a funeral mass for a Spanish policeman - ~~who was~~ slain last night ~~in~~ while trying to break up a left-wing demonstration. The policeman's coffin was then seized by about a hundred of his fellow officers. They paraded it through the streets of downtown Madrid - at the same time, demanding permission to use firearms - in any future demonstrations. A spokesman later saying: If they don't rescind the no shooting order - we won't move against demonstrators.

MEANS

The leader of the American Indian movement and four of his followers - were indicted today by a Federal grand jury. Russell Means, Stanley Holder, Eugene Heavyrunner, Ronald Petite and Herbert Powless - all accused of conspiring to transport arms to Wounded Knee, South Dakota - also crossing State lines with intent to riot.

COLUMBUS

From Columbus, Ohio words of wisdom regarding energy and ecology. Senator Saxbe of Ohio saying: "In the past, we have wasted a lot of our precious fuel resources - because we were not as concerned as we should have been about fuel efficiency."

Adding: "In the future, we must be sure we get the maximum - out of each type of fuel." And ecologists, said he, Bill, are "going to have to be more realistic."

PHOENIX

From Phoenix, Arizona - the story of one Marvin Cooley; who recently wrote a book on how to file an income tax return - so as to avoid paying any taxes. Cooley telling his readers to write "I don't know" in the spaces normally reserved for pertinent figures." Also urging that anyone called into court - should act as his own attorney - basing his defense - on constitutional guarantees against self-incrimination."

All of this - considered by many a joke. Except that Cooley himself followed his own advice, and has just been convicted of failing to file income tax returns - for Nineteen Sixty-Eight, Nineteen-Sixty-Nine and Nineteen-Seventy. He's now facing up to three years in jail - and a fine of thirty thousand bucks. By the way, the title of Cooley's book is: The Big Bluff. Now he has discovered, too late that the government was holding a pat hand.