

GOP leaders to meet

Connally chides attempt to stop it

LONGVIEW, Tex.—Former secretary of the Treasury John B. Connally says no "responsible person" in the White House would try to prevent a national meeting of state GOP chairmen which he will host on March 14 at his South Texas ranch.

Connally made the statement here Tuesday after being told about published reports that White House officials were discouraging the state chairmen from attending the meeting.

The reports said White House and

other GOP leaders felt the meeting could be a maneuver by Connally to make a bid for the Republican presidential nomination if President Ford falters in the primaries.

"The truth of the matter is I didn't call for the meeting," Connally said at a news conference here, where he spoke before the local chamber of commerce.

Connally stated he is not a candidate for public office.

"If I decide to run for president, I'm not going to circulate about it," he said. "The world will know it."

"I can't believe," he added, "that

any responsible person at the White House is trying to discourage party regulars from attending the San Antonio political retreat. I'm trying to broaden the party in all its aspects and no responsible person would try to stop that effort."

Texas GOP chairman Ray Hutchison said he called the meeting and invited the national representatives to attend. He said Tuesday that the gathering will be to discuss strategy aimed at increasing Republican representation in Congress.

The GOP chairmen will meet first at San Antonio on March 13, then

travel to Connally's ranch at nearby Floresville for a Saturday session and a luncheon given by Connally.

Connally said Hutchison is "very concerned about building the party from the grass roots level. He wants to enlist other chairmen to work at the grass roots level to broaden the base of the party."

He stressed a need for Republican party workers to elect their candidates at state and congressional levels and added, "I'd trade for a Republican Congress any day."

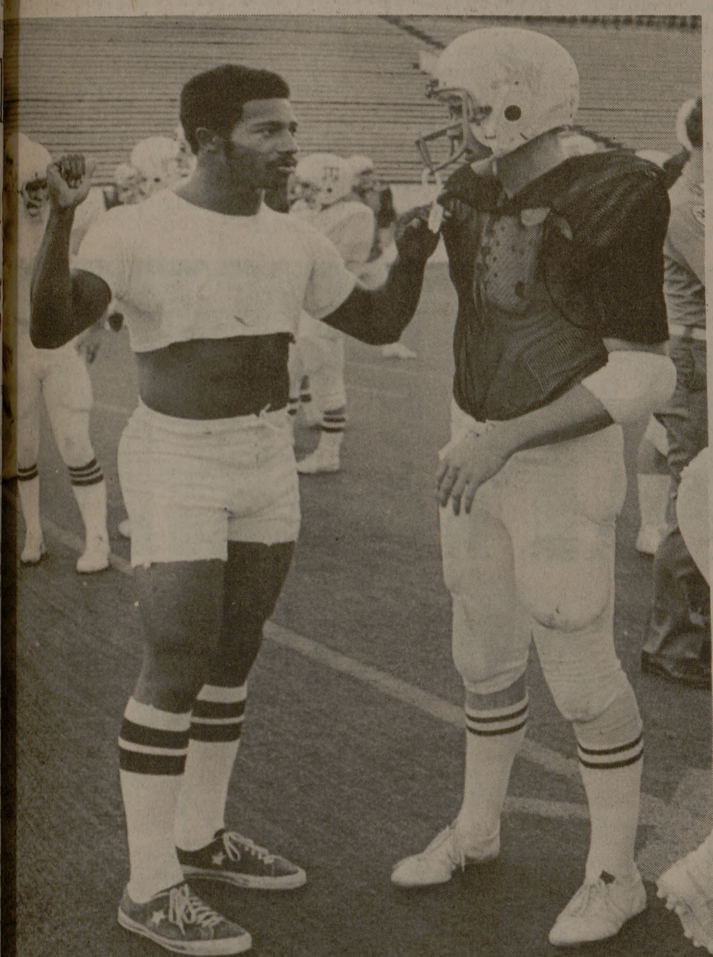
He described the current Democratic-controlled Congress as "the most partisan, the most irresponsible that I can remember," and criticized its handling of energy legislation and foreign policy.

The former Texas governor also said the large block of American voters who call themselves independent hold the greatest promise for the rise of a third party and "all they need is the right leadership and the right candidate."

Hutchison called reports that the White House is trying to block the Floresville gathering part of the "silly season in politics."

"It is just not even conceivable that the White House would object to Republicans meeting any time, anywhere, with anybody for the purpose of discussing congressional strategy," he said.

Hutchison said he expects to have between 15 and 20 state chairmen at the meeting.



Now pay attention
Aggie halfback Bubba Bean gives a few pointers to seniors playing in this year's Elephant Bowl. The annual game between the Army-Navy seniors and the Air Force seniors is scheduled for March 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Kyle Field. The one dollar tickets may be obtained from any First Sergeant or at the gate.
Staff photo by Jim Hendrickson

Congressman doubts need for additional Ft. Hood land

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House subcommittee evaluating the Army's need to expand Ft. Hood in Central Texas, says he is not convinced the Army has studied its land requirements thoroughly.

Rep. Richard H. Ichord, D-Mo., added, however, that if the Army is able to establish a clear need for the 59,300 acres it wants to add to Fort Hood, he would support the request.

"After the Army presented its case last week, Ichord indicated he had not made up his mind about the land requests, which would cost approximately \$36.5 million.

The Army wants to run its tanks and troops over land now occupied by the ranches of approximately 235 landowners.

Ichord said he was interested in the landowners' reaction to a suggestion that the purchase be delayed at least two years to permit the Army to continue to study the situation.

He made his comments after testimony by a representative of a group of landowners opposed to the land

acquisition. The hearing, attended by approximately 70 of the landowners, was conducted by his House Armed Services subcommittee on military facilities and installations.

"I have the greatest compassion for the landowners who have had to move in previous expansions," he said. "There are sentimental values that cannot be measured in terms of money."

After the Army presented its case last week, Ichord indicated he had not made up his mind about the land requests, which would cost approximately \$36.5 million.

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Liquor refused

(Continued from page 1)

SG has, however, tried to persuade the administration to approve liquor on campus for special occasions and dances to increase attendance at such functions. Even though the conditions for such occasions would be very strict and supervised, the administration's response has been negative.

SG has also been working on a referendum to extend the drinking hours in College Station from 12 to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Dunn said the referendum passed the Student Senate and has now gone to the College Station City Council for approval. If the council votes yes on it, the referendum will go into effect as a city ordinance.

To get the policy on alcoholic beverages changed on campus, the process is a long and tedious one, Dunn said. The issue must first pass the student senate. It is then given to the vice presidents for comment and next sent to the Academic Council.

If the council approves the issue, they make a recommendation to Williams and upon his approval, he makes a recommendation to the Board of Regents. If the Board accepts the issue, it becomes university policy.

Dunn said the liquor issue has not been brought before the student senate this year because SG feels this is not an appropriate time to do so. "If it passed us," Dunn said, "it would be killed during the next stage."

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