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Connally says Reagan best qualified

United Press International
HOUSTON — Former Texas Gov. John Connally started a news conference Thursday by announcing plans to campaign for Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan, but he really wanted to answer fellow high-powered Houston lawyer Leon Jaworski.

When introducing Bush at a downtown rally Monday, Jaworski urged Texans to ignore "also-rans who marched up to the altar of public opinion with large campaign chests and who are now back home licking their wounds. They once laughed at George, but now George has the last laugh."

Connally — prosecuted by Jaworski's Watergate team, but acquitted of charges that he, as Treasury secretary, accepted a payoff for backing higher milk price supports

— took Jaworski's remark personally and responded tartly.

"I think my only comment would be that, if indeed he is referring to me, that Mr. Jaworski's PR (public relations) people told him he needed a hype of some kind so he could get back in the news," Connally said. "That's the only justification I know for such a remark."

"I thought it came with poor grace and bad judgment for Mr. Jaworski to make the statement that he did, and I'm not going to respond in kind."

"The only two contests where we really locked horns, his candidate came in third behind Gov. Reagan and me, and that was in Florida and South Carolina. I think when it's all over we're all going to be also-rans," Connally said.

Connally bettered Bush in the November Florida straw poll and the

South Carolina primary, where both lost to Reagan.

But Bush's Texas chairman, Hal DeMoss, listed Puerto Rico, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont as places where both Connally and Bush were on the ballot and Bush finished ahead of Connally.

Connally attacked Bush's claim he has more experience for the White House than Reagan.

Reagan's "background and experience far exceeds that of his only opponent. They're not even comparable," Connally said.

"He (Reagan) was governor of a state for eight years. He knows issues better than anybody in terms of taxes, inflation, energy, bureaucracy. A governor must deal with a legislature."

"George cites a long list of appointments. But you have to dis-

tinguish between appointments and achievements," Connally said.

"In my opinion, the best training a presidential candidate can have is to be governor of a major state."

Connally said President Carter, a one-term governor of Georgia, might be "the exception that proves the rule," but Connally also said he did not consider Georgia to be a major state.

Connally, who traveled to Dallas and Tennessee with Reagan Thursday, said he had not discussed, did not want and would be "reluctant" to accept any post in a Reagan administration. But he stopped short of saying he would not serve.

"It's presumptuous of me to just say, 'Well I'm not going to do it. That doesn't sound good and doesn't set well.' I've restrained myself from

being that strong. But don't interpret what I do say as the traditional invitation."

Connally predicted Reagan would win Texas handily, but said he likely would win "eight or 10 congressional districts." Texas has 12 congressional districts.

Connally said Reagan's familiarity with California oil and gas production, California agriculture and California water shortages qualified him to face the same issues and problems in Texas.

"I don't know of any major issue in Texas that he (Reagan) doesn't have a familiarity with, and I know more about that any candidate in the race including fellow Texan, Mr. Bush," Connally said.

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Nuclear site unsafe Power company fined

United Press International
ARLINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Thursday proposed fining Houston Lighting & Power Co. \$100,000 for non-compliance with safety regulations in construction of the South Texas Nuclear Power Station near Bay City.

The NRC also said the utility should show why its construction permit should not be suspended in 90 days because of the allegations.

The items of non-compliance were identified during an investigation conducted between Nov. 10, 1979, and Feb. 7, according to Clyde Wisner, director of public affairs for the NRC regional office. The items were related to the quality assurance program of one of the utility's principal contractors, Brown & Root Inc.

The investigation also revealed evidence that radiographic tests of piping welds were conducted in a manner which did not meet the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) code. Testing of safety-related pipe welds and conformance with the ASME code is required by NRC regulations.

In a letter to the utility, Victor Stello, director of the NRC office of inspection and enforcement, said, "...similar items of non-compliance

and substantiated allegations of harassment and lack of support of Q.C. (quality control) personnel have been the subject of previous NRC correspondence with you and indicate that your past corrective actions on these matters has been incomplete and ineffective.

"Although these problems have been to a great extent associated with Brown & Root quality assurance program implementation, as licensee, you have prime responsibility for correction. The deficiencies in the Brown & Root program were so extensive that they should have been readily detected."

The potential fine for all 22 items of non-compliance cited is \$372,000. However, under federal law, the total fines for any 30-day period cannot exceed \$25,000. Consequently, the proposed fine is \$100,000 to cover the 120-day period the NRC investigated the utility.

In addition to the proposed civil penalty, Stello served on HL&P an order to show cause why the construction permit for the South Texas Project should not be suspended in 90 days. Until corrective actions with the quality assurance programs are implemented, the company and Brown & Root will also be required

to meet with senior NRC officials public meeting near the site at a date to be set, Wisner said.

The utility has 25 days to protest fine or to protest it.

Gas rations mean fewer aliens to leave

United Press International
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Migration of gasoline by the U.S. means fewer illegal aliens will be deported from the state, an immigration official said.

Pete Reyes, district director of Albuquerque and El Paso offices, said Wednesday the state was forced to ration its gasoline supplies because of a tighter budget.

"This will cut the number of the immigration officers who are deporting illegal aliens," Reyes said. He also said officers might be "reluctant" in deciding who to send out of the country.

He said the Border Patrol has asked police agencies to arrest aliens only if they have committed a "moral crime."

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A vote for John M. Barron Jr. on May 3 is a vote to keep strong law enforcement in Brazos County.

(Pol. ad pd by John M. Barron Jr., Box 4146, Bryan, Tx. 77801)