

Law, real estate main interests

Connally avoiding politics

United Press International
 HOUSTON — John Connally said he isn't running for any office, he's just running. It takes weeks to see the former three-term Texas governor, former secretary of the Navy and former secretary of the Navy because the tall, silver-haired Texan is constantly on the move.

He still is dabbling in politics, said he only does it in hopes of getting the best people to work for him. Connally, who is 65 but doesn't look it, said he spends most of his time practicing law, investing in profitable business ventures and enjoying life. The life of public office is not as exciting as it was for 40 years. "I have no plans to seek any office nor hold any office — appointive or elective," Connally said in a recent interview. "I never have been one to seek public office or even tranquility," he said. "I am going to participate as long as I live. That doesn't mean I want anything or expect anything."

Connally, who with former Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes is investing heavily in Texas real estate, has not held public office since 1973, although he made an unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 1980. Still, no matter where he goes, people line up to shake his hand and confer with him concerning a wide range of subjects. What is it that draws people to Connally?

"I don't want sound modest or immodest, but after all, I have watched and been a part of the Washington scene for 43 years," he said. "I went there as a young man in 1939 and I've known substantially every leader of this country in both parties and in both houses of Congress."

"Being a senior partner in one of the largest law firms in the world (Vinson, Elkins), you obviously need to keep abreast of what's happening internationally and domestically ... in order to adequately advise your clients who work in the international arena. I think I have a considerable amount of knowledge and information."

Connally first went to Washington as a Democrat and aide to then-Rep. Lyndon Johnson. He changed to the Republican Party in 1973, which many observers regarded as a move to position himself as a presidential candidate.

But he denies the White House ever was his goal. He dropped out of the 1980 presidential race after spending \$10 million and winning only one GOP convention delegate. After Ronald Reagan entered "it was over for the rest of us," Connally said.

"I've never had a goal except to try to do the best job I was capable of doing at whatever I was doing at the time," he said. "I never had any clear political ambitions. I've never had any burning ambition to hold political office."

He said he is glad he did not win the presidency in 1980 and never expects to run for that office again.

"President Reagan's got all the headaches in the world and I have the pleasure of privacy and the ability to enjoy the fruits of my labor," Connally said. "I'm not going to rule out the possibility (of running for president), but I'm not planning on it."

Connally is sure his image as a rich Texas wheeler-dealer may have had a negative impact on the public.

Although he was acquitted of wrongdoing in 1975 in the celebrated milk scandal, the allegations of using his influence in

behalf of milk price supports haunt him.


"It is regrettable that most people are not particularly fond of Texans," he said. "They have an image of Texans that is somewhat born from a bit of envy and jealousy."

"I am what I am and I've never attempted to be anything else but a true image," he said. "I'm very proud of being a Texan. I'm proud of my state. I'm a proud individual and I make no apologies."

Connally is now a millionaire, although his life started in Floresville as a farmer's son.

He's been married for almost 42 years to college sweetheart Idanell Brill and takes great

pride in his ranch near San Antonio, where he raises quarterhorses and Santa Gertrudis cattle.



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Fight against TB still long battle

United Press International
 ATLANTA — Tuberculosis, a great respiratory killer of decades ago that filled sanatoriums with thousands of victims, is clinging onto its reputation as a vicious disease difficult to eradicate.

The knockout punch is a long way down the road, says Dr. Lawrence S. Farer, director of tuberculosis control division at the national Centers for Disease Control.

The incidence of tuberculosis or TB, has leveled off for the past three years after declining steadily since the 1950s. From 1968 through 1978, there had been an average decrease in the number of cases of 5.6 percent. More recently the decrease has averaged just 1.4 percent.

Tuberculosis is caused by a bacterium called "tubercle bacillus" that affects mainly the lungs. Persons contracting the infection may develop an active case of the disease or it may become dormant. Farer estimates there are 10 million Americans with dormant TB infections. The cause of TB was discovered

100 years ago by a German doctor, Robert Koch, but "it was not a curable disease until we had drug treatment about 30 years ago," said Farer.

Globally, TB still takes three million lives annually, especially in the developing countries where medical facilities, housing and diet are inadequate.

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