

Campaign 1980 by Kathleen Murphy



Connally concedes New Hampshire: sets sights on South

John Connally has all but conceded the Feb. 26 New Hampshire primary, sources report. The Republican presidential contender decided not to mount a planned major effort in that state following his poor showing in the Iowa caucuses last month, where he placed fourth behind George Bush, Ronald Reagan and Howard Baker.

Instead, Connally's new strategy centers on the hope that Bush's strong challenge to Reagan will force the former California governor to concentrate his forces in the Northeast, leaving his southern flank undefended. Connally, posing as the true conservative in the race, will then move into the South to make a killing in the four early primaries there—South Carolina (March 8), followed by Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, all on March 11. Connally is counting on strong showings in these races to give him momentum for Illinois' crucial March 18 primary.

Connally backer Jim Edwards, the former governor of South Car-

olina, laid out Connally's southern strategy in a Jan. 22 statement: "I find the Bush victory (in Iowa) to be extremely encouraging for the Connally campaign," Edwards said, "because it proves Ronald Reagan is not invincible. Now Bush and Baker will have to fight it out for the support of the liberal wing of the party, while conservatives take a closer look at Gov. Connally and Ronald Reagan." Edwards also cited polls showing that Connally's support among southern conservatives is increasing. "With Bush emerging as the leader of the liberal wing of the Republican Party, Governor Connally is emerging as the leader of the conservative wing," Edwards said.

Despite Edwards' optimism, Connally faces serious problems in South Carolina. Harry Dent, a powerful figure in state (and national) GOP politics, has broken with his old friend Strom Thurmond, who is backing Connally, and is now zealously plugging George Bush.

GOP to ape Maggie Thatcher in 1980 campaign

The Republican National Committee (RNC) is modeling its 1980 electoral effort after that of Margaret Thatcher, who led the Tory Party to victory in Great Britain last May. The RNC's rather startling decision to adopt a method of politics against which the American Revolution was fought came, after chairman Bill Brock met with Thatcher in England and observed her campaign.

So impressed was the RNC with Brock's glowing reports of Thatcher's technique that it decided to invest \$5 million in a TV ad campaign borrowed straight from the Tories. The RNC went so far as to hire Thatcher's ad man, Jim Killough, now happily ensconced at the Republican's headquarters in Washington, to run the operation.

The GOP isn't borrowing just advertising techniques from Britain. Said an aide to Brock this week: "Sure we're going to be saying a lot of the same things on issues that the Tories did—government spending, productivity, that sort of thing. But that's nothing new. We've seen eye to eye with them for a long time."

Reagan courts Democratic hardliners

Foreign policy advisers to Ronald Reagan have suggested that he consider appointing "Democratic hardliners" to Cabinet positions should he win the presidency. According to reports, Reagan caucused with advisers Richard Allen, Daniel Graham and others last weekend for a broad-ranging discussion of foreign policy. Several of the advisers insisted that Reagan make an opening to the so-called Jackson-Moynihan wing of the Democratic party, known to be flirting with the idea of supporting a Republican "hawk" for the presidency. The three names that cropped up most frequently were those of Senators Daniel Moynihan of New York, Sam Nunn of Georgia and Henry Jackson of Washington.