

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 11, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANNE ARMSTRONG *ARA*
SUBJECT: Nomination for Vice President

Attached are the results of my telephone calls concerning suggestions for your nomination for Vice President.

The big majority of savvy Republicans outside Congress want a strong nominee, a real horse for '76, and not a caretaker. They feel that Congress would have to cave in to public opinion demanding the strongest nominee.

I have noted very little bitter divisiveness among Republicans. Conservative opposition to Rockefeller and liberal opposition to Reagan and Connally is not vehement in most cases.

Connally, in general, is the number one choice. I think he would be an even stronger candidate except for the fact that many supporters have fears he could not be confirmed since he is the Republican most feared by the Democrats for 1976. Very few of my contacts, however, are aware of the resourcefulness of Connally in winning Congressional votes and of the strong leverage he has on many Democrat Members of Congress.

Percy's name was mentioned once favorably by a black woman in Illinois and many times unfavorably.

Reagan support is shallower than I expected. Even though most Southern Republican leaders will name him as their first choice, this is in many cases a deferential vote and Connally is a strong second.

Several Senators on both sides of the aisle with top-of-the-ticket aspirations for '76 are backing Goldwater in order to hold the line for themselves in the future.

Recommendation: If a tough confirmation battle looms, I suggest we use publishers friendly to your nominee (1) to gather accurate nose counts of Congressional delegations and (2) to put the squeeze on Senators and Congressmen in their areas.