

NIXON AIDE CALLS SHOVING TRIVIAL

President's Pushing Ziegler
Is Laid to Confusion

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug. 21 (AP) — The White House brushed aside today an incident in New Orleans yesterday in which President Nixon shoved his press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, attributing it to the confusion of a day in which plans were changed because of a reported threat on the President's life.

Gerald L. Warren, the deputy press secretary, said that the relationship between the President and his press secretary "is excellent" and that the incident was not significant.

Mr. Warren also responded to reporters' questions about the President's apparent tension and loss of temper during the incident by saying that Mr. Nixon was "very pleased" at the reception he received at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in New Orleans.

Newsmen Ordered Away

On arriving at the convention center, the President became visibly annoyed about confusion in the movement of his entourage and the press. Mr. Nixon gave Mr. Ziegler a sharp order to keep reporters away from him and then shoved him toward the reporters.

Mr. Warren said today that it was a "highly unusual . . . a difficult situation" and "there is no question that the past few months have been periods of pressure on the President."

But Mr. Warren added, "There is no question in the President's mind, in the minds of those around the President, that he is capable . . . he is performing the functions of his office. He is leading this nation."

'Something Behind Us'

Mr. Warren said that the matter was "something that is behind us." He said that Mr. Ziegler and the President had talked since then and "I see no reason to belabor it."

Mr. Warren also denied that the President had been referring to cancellation of his motorcade in New Orleans when he was quoted as telling his person secretary, Rose Mary Wood, "They'll never cancel another one." The conversation was overheard by reporters as Miss Woods told the President that she had prayed for him after receiving word of the reported threat on his life. The quote about a cancellation, Mr. Warren maintained, referred to another matter that Miss Woods was working on with the President.