

# Governor Won't Take U.S. Post

Washington

Despite job overtures from the Nixon administration, Virginia Republican Governor Linwood Holton said Tuesday he plans to return to his law practice in Roanoke when his term ends in January.

Holton is known to be disillusioned with the President's handling of Watergate-related scandals and has reportedly been advised by at least one close confidant to steer clear of any administration appointment.

As recently as last week, Holton, an original organizer of Mr. Nixon's 1968 presidential campaign, told a reporter it has been "damned disappointing" to see administration accomplishments undercut by what he called "isolationism" and "overaggressive tactics" in the White House.

By his own definition a "complete political animal," Holton is also understood to be eager to maintain his political base in Virginia, perhaps for a race against U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd Jr. (Independent-Va.) in 1976.

Holton reportedly discussed possible administration jobs with Alexander M. Haig Jr., White House Chief of Staff, at least once in the past few weeks.

Without mentioning Haig by name, Holton said that the post of Ambassador to NATO was one of several jobs he discussed with the White House.

In an interview last week, Holton said his relations with the President always remained cordial, despite rebuffs from White House aides, principally over Holton's moderate stand on school busing and his insist-

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ence that the Virginia GOP run a candidate against Byrd in 1970.

But, while stopping short of personal criticism of Mr. Nixon, he said he was disillusioned by White House methods as reflected in its handling of the Watergate scandal.

*Washington Post*