

Connally Discontent Is Denied

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The mystery of John B. Connally's relations with President Nixon persisted yesterday, but the White House denied that Connally had urged the relief of Ronald L. Ziegler from his duties as press secretary.

There were reports that Connally would hold a news conference to clear up the conflicting reports about him, but Connally could not be reached and there was no announcement.

White House aides have denied that Connally is unhappy over the Watergate-inspired staff reorganization, the new economic decisions or his relations with the President.

But Connally was quoted last week by the Wall Street Journal as saying he joined Secretary of the Treasury George P. Shultz in recommending "less than the President decided to do" on the economy.

The Journal also said Connally would give up his part-time advisory role in the near future.

Mr. Nixon talked by telephone with Connally over the weekend and Connally attended Monday night's White House dinner for Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev. The former Treasury Secretary also is scheduled to attend a reception for Brezhnev in San Clemente this weekend, according to White House informants.

They maintain that reports of Connally's unhappiness are out of date. He was unhappy

about the way his advice was received several weeks ago, the informants said, but all that has been ironed out and he is as close to the President as ever.

At Monday's White House dinner, Connally, in a brief exchange with reporters, said "Washington is a big rumor factory" and that he would explain his position later at a news conference.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said that yesterday's Los Angeles Times story reporting a conflict between Connally and Ziegler was incorrect.

They had a talk earlier yesterday, Warren said, adding that Connally had not urged Ziegler's dismissal or transfer.

"The tone and content (of the Los Angeles Times story, printed also in The Washington Post) do not accurately characterize those discussions," Warren said. "The implications in the story are without foundation."

The Times said it had been informed that Connally recommended to the President that Ziegler be removed as press secretary and later told Ziegler in a face-to-face meeting that he should resign.