

Connally Leaving His Post As Part-Time Nixon Adviser

7/26/73
By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon announced yesterday that former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally, who was brought into the White House May 10 as a part-time special adviser, is returning to his Houston law firm.

Connally's appointment was announced in the wake of White House staff changes following the resignations of presidential aides H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman.

Connally's departure came a day after former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird denied reports that he is disgruntled with his role as the President's chief domestic adviser and may leave the White House.

Connally's departure has been expected since he told a White House news conference June 20 that he had "given about all the advice I have to give" and that he was "not being fully utilized."

Connally, who served without pay or staff insisted at the press conference that he was "not unhappy about anything," but he indicated that stories saying he was less than satisfied with his new role were pretty accurate.

Stories had said he was too blunt in his advice to suit the President and that he had urged a more far-reaching housecleaning than the President was prepared to undertake.

Nevertheless, the President invited Connally to the state dinner he gave for Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev on June 18 and took him with him to San Clemente the following weekend for the wind-up of the Brezhnev meetings.

The President last conferred with Connally in person July 11, the day before entering Bethesda Naval Hospital with viral pneumonia.

"The President expressed his deepest gratitude to Gov. Connally for the wise counsel he has given and the personal sacrifice he made in coming to Washington," the announcement said.

"The President is gratified that Gov. Connally will remain available to the President for personal consultation in the future."

Connally said at his June 20 press conference that to serve as a presidential adviser he had twice postponed a round-the-world trip he had planned with his wife. He said he hoped to end his post-Watergate advisory role "by midsummer at the latest" and embark on his world tour.

Yesterday's announcement said that the Connallys would leave the country "in the near future" and that on their return Connally would rejoin his law firm.

Earlier yesterday, the President met for nearly two hours with Republican congressional leaders on pending legislation. Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), and House Minority leader Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.) said that Watergate was not discussed in the meeting.

Both leaders blamed the Democratic majority for the failure of Congress to make headway on major Nixon legislative proposals.

They said they discussed 35 important proposals in the legislative process. Few if any will be passed before

the Aug. 3 summer recess begins, the leaders said, unless the Democrats move much more rapidly than now expected.

The President will meet with the Cabinet today to discuss what each member might do to help persuade Congress to move on legislation in his area of interest, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said.

In other action, the President announced that he would nominate:

- Deputy Attorney General Joseph T. Sneed to be a judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. A former dean of the Duke University Law School, Sneed was named deputy attorney general early this year.

There have been reports that William D. Ruckelshaus, former administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and former acting FBI director, will be named to succeed Sneed.

- Thomas R. Byrne, a career foreign Service officer, to be ambassador to Norway. He is now special assistant to the State Department's director general for employee-management relations.

- John Y. Ing for reappointment as a governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring Dec. 8, 1981. Ing is a dentist who was appointed to the Postal Service last year to fill an unexpired term.