

Q. *The word here in Texas is that Big John Connally will never be found guilty of perjury and bribery charges in connection with the milk fund campaign contributions. It's also said that if he is, President Ford will pardon him. Is that why Big John and Gerald Ford were closeted in the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston on Feb. 10, 1975 for 45 minutes?—A.K., Houston, Tex.*

A. The White House explanation from press secretary Ron Nessen: "I am told that John Connally and the President are old friends, have known each other for a long time and when the President was here [Houston] he decided to invite John Connally up for a talk. They talked for about 45 minutes, and the subjects were energy and the economy. I am told there were no politics discussed." Nessen's source presumably was President Ford.