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White House Is Quiet on Connally Visit

President Ford conferred at the White House last week with John B. Connally, former Texas governor and former Secretary of the Treasury, but the White House declined yesterday to disclose any details.

An attempt to reach Connally was unsuccessful. His secretary in Houston said Connally would not comment to reporters on his meeting with the President.

When press secretary Ron Nessen was asked at his briefing if there had been a meeting between the President and Connally, recently acquitted of charges that he accepted two bribes totaling \$10,000 for getting a rise in government milk price supports, Nessen said he did not know of any meeting.

After sending an aide to inquire, Nessen reported that Connally did meet with the President last Wednesday for 33 minutes alone in the Oval Office.

Nessen later explained that late on the night before the meeting Connally telephoned a Ford aide and said he was in town and would like to pay his respects.

The meeting was arranged late Wednesday morning and Connally went to the Oval Office without his name appearing on the calling list. Nessen said.

Questioned in April following Connally's acquittal by a federal jury here, Mr. Ford told CBS newsman Walter Cronkite he could foresee a future role for Connally in the Republican party.

"He was acquitted; all charges have been dismissed," the President said then. "He has a clean slate, and he has got the record in the courts to prove it. So I think there could be a role for John Connally in the Republican Party in 1976."