

CONNALLY INSISTS HE ISN'T UNHAPPY

but Says He'll Leave White House Advisory Job Soon

By JOHN HERBERS

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WASHINGTON, June 20—John B. Connally, special unpaid adviser to the President, called a news conference at the White House today to deny reports that he was unhappy with the way he has been treated. However, he confirmed that he was leaving by mid-summer to travel abroad and resume his Houston law practice.

"I've given all the advice I'm prepared to give," said the former Secretary of the Treasury and Texas Governor.

For Mr. Connally, conducting the 50-minute, wide-ranging and frequently tense session in the White House briefing room was as easy as spreading tupelo honey on a hot biscuit.

Smiling, cracking jokes and appearing highly self-confident, the man who is widely regarded as a likely 1976 Presidential candidate denied there was any rift between himself and President Nixon and his staff. At the same time, he left the impression that he was aloof from the troubled Administration, that he had one his best to straighten it out and he was now going his independent way.

Mr. Connally said he was violating his own rule that unpaid advisers remain out of the limelight but that he felt it necessary to set to rest stories that I have been very unhappy and about to leave, that I was mad and upset for various reasons, because I didn't have a staff and because of this and that."

He said that when he came to Washington May 10 he never intended to stay more than 60 days.

"The President asked me to be an adviser," he said. "I view that as a role that requires me to give him my best judgment, my best advice on a particular matter that he wants to discuss. That I've tried to do.

"So I'm not unhappy about anything," he continued. "I've tried as best I know how to respond to questions he had about the staff, economic matters, international affairs."

Mr. Connally, who switched from the Democratic to the Republican party earlier this year, would not say what he had told the President. There had been reports that he had recommended more drastic changes to repair the damage of the Watergate case and that the President was cool to his suggestions and no longer called him in for private discussions.

'Completely Candid'

"I have always been completely candid with him," Mr. Connally said. "I have been absolutely honest with him in advice that I gave him. I have never tried to couch my advice in terms of being either palatable or pleasant, necessarily."

He denied that he had advised Mr. Nixon to dismiss Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, because of misleading statements he had made to the press on the Watergate case, but he did not deny that he had recommended removing Mr. Ziegler from the daily briefings. He pointed out that this was being accomplished with the recent promotion of Mr. Ziegler to assistant to the President while holding the title of press secretary.

He denied that there was any big behind-the-scenes spat on economic policy, but he made it clear that he was not in agreement with some of the President's advisers who believe government controls may soon be relaxed.

"I think we have to look to fairly firm controls in certain areas during this period," he said. "I think one of the greatest weaknesses we found ourselves in was moving out of Phase 2 to Phase 3 too quickly."

"This matter of inflation is a worldwide problem and the idea that we will be able to come up with a magic formula that is going to solve it for the United States is wishful thinking in the extreme. I think we have to live with the problem. I think we have to be patient. I think we have to be understanding."

Rejecting the offer of an office and staff in the Executive Office Building was his own idea, Mr. Connally said.

"I am sensitive about little things," he said. "I don't want to operate out of the Executive Office Building because I am an adviser to the President. I am not on the White House staff. I don't want to be calling people and say the White House is calling. I'm in a little different role from everybody around me."

The more Mr. Connally talked the more he seemed to be confirming differences between him and the President. In discussing the news articles about him, he said, "You have some leakers who are fairly accurate in what they have been leaking to you." At another point he depicted himself as idle most of the time in his suite at the Mayflower Hotel: "I'm catching up on my reading."

Asked if he had told the President he wanted to leave, Mr. Connally told reporters, "I'm trying to send word to him through y'all."

He made it clear he had never discussed the Watergate case itself with the President and knew nothing about it. But he added, "It's been harmful, no question about it."

Mr. Connally was asked, as he is everywhere he goes, about his possible plans to run for President.

"I don't have any," he said.