



AP Wirephoto
John Connally wore a yarmulke while he spoke to newsmen before addressing a Jewish group

Connally Denies He Acted for ITT

New York

White House aide John B. Connally says he did not "personally intercede" in behalf of International Telephone and Telegraph's successful effort in 1971 to retain the Hartford Fire Insurance Co.

The Hartford, Conn., Courant reported Saturday that ITT approached the former treasury secretary in April 1971 for help in a federal antitrust suit against ITT. A settlement allowed ITT to keep Hartford Fire.

The Courant also reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission had

unearthed "politically sensitive" memoranda in which a high ITT official thanked Connally for helping obtain a delay in the case that helped the company reach the settlement.

The newspaper quoted a memo from an ITT vice president, William R. Merriam, to Connally, in which Connally's aid was described as "most instrumental" in obtaining the delay.

Asked about the newspaper report, Connally, now a special adviser to President Nixon, said, "I don't believe that's true. I didn't personally intercede."

When asked about an allegation in the Courant that his law firm in Houston had been paid by ITT for work related to the merger with Hartford Fire, Connally said, "I know nothing about it."

Officials of the law firm earlier had refused to comment, the Courant reported. Connally took a leave of absence from the firm after he was named adviser to the President on May 11.

Associated Press