

MAR 29 1972

SF Examiner

'Impolite But Not Drunk'

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Arthur K. Watson says that charges by columnist Jack Anderson that he got "gloriously drunk" on a transatlantic flight were exaggerated.

Watson, the U.S. ambassador to France who was named by President Nixon as the contact for further discussions with China, conceded yesterday he was "exceedingly and unintentionally rude" to the crew of the Pan American jet on the flight March 9 from London to New York.

He attributed his conduct to spending an entire night working without sleep, two ineffective sleeping pills and "several drinks." But he denied that he was intoxicated and offered to produce witnesses to prove it.

Watson stated his case in

a letter to Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio), chairman of the House foreign affairs subcommittee. Hays, who had asked for an explanation from Watson, said he did not see any purpose in holding public hearings and had decided after reading Watson's explanation to "treat it as a one time aberration."

But Hays warned that while he would give Watson "a second chance," he would not tolerate another such incident. Hays said he was not a China expert but he did know that the Chinese traditionally "don't look very kindly" on drunken behavior.

Anderson wrote that Watson on the flight "kept shouting for more scotch, grabbing the stewardesses and trying to stuff money down the fronts of their blouses, finally passing out, his arms and legs sprawled across the first class lounge."