

# Connally Says He's Going to Quit Soon

## Washington

John B. Connally said yesterday he is not unhappy or upset about his White House job but wants to quit as soon as possible.

He seemed to deny published reports he is restless and displeased about his White House role, and feels cut off from ready access to President Nixon. But Connally puzzled newsmen at the White House by declaring:

"You have some leakers who are fairly accurate in what they have been leaking to you."

The one-time Texas governor who shifted from the Democratic to Republican party eight days before becoming

a part-time, unpaid presidential consultant on May 10, was asked how long he planned to remain on the job.

"As short a time as possible," he responded, adding that he hopes to return to private life by midsummer.

### WISHES

Asked if he had conveyed his wishes to Mr. Nixon, Connally told his news conference he was "trying to send word to him through you all."

The strongman of the Nixon cabinet when he served 16 months as secretary of the Treasury, Connally explained his desire to leave by saying "I believe I've given all the advice that I have to give."

But at another point he said he expects to make a contribution in the planning of Phase Four inflation restraints which he said should contain specific guidelines and "fairly firm controls" over selected industries, perhaps including oil producers.

The former Treasury chief denied, among other things, that he feels his talents have not been fully utilized during his brief White House tenure. Yet in another breath he conceded he found himself with plenty of time to catch up on his reading.

He also denied recommending to Mr. Nixon that press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler be fired. At the same time, he said he had talked

to Mr. Nixon and Ziegler about "a great many problems and people" but would not disclose the advice he had given on rebuilding the Watergate-shattered White House staff.

### WATERGATE

Responding to another question, Connally said he would not assess the impact of the Watergate scandal on the administration, then added, "It's been harmful, no question about it."

Asked about possible plans to seek the 1976 GOP presidential nomination, Connally said, "I don't have any." He acknowledged he probably will campaign actively for Republican candidates in the 1974 off-year election.

By some accounts, Connally found his access to President Nixon restricted after offering advice on Watergate related matters that the president found unpalatable.

While saying his advice was confined to staffing problems resulting from the scandal, Connally said that whether his suggestions had been palatable or not, "I have been completely candid with him; I have been completely honest with him."

He acknowledged he believes anyone connected with the burglary-conspiracy or subsequent coverup should be dismissed.

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