

ABC News, 11 a.m.

It may not be curtains for the President's chief counsel after all. A report from ABC's Jerry Landy [phonetic], at the Florida White House.

Landy: Friends of White House counsel John Dean tell ABC News that President Nixon yesterday phoned Dean in suburban Washington to assure Dean he still holds his job. The White House will not deny those reports. The White House has steered clear of such public assurances over since Dean was linked to the Watergate case.

Meantime there are indications the President may be preparing to expand the duties of White House news secretary Ron Ziegler. For one of the few times in memory neither the two top Presidential aides, Bob Haldeman or John Ehrlichman have accompanied President Nixon here to Florida. An assistant to Ziegler concedes that as senior aide here Ziegler's been given additional duties by the President this weekend, but the assistant insists Ziegler remains White House news secretary only.

Jerry Landy, ABC News with the President in Florida.