

Connally Is Departing, Concedes Frustration

by David S. Broder

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He said he knew "nothing whatever" about the Watergate case and had never discussed it with the President, "except as it is related to the overall problems of this country."

He said "there is no question" that "it has been harmful to the administration." He repudiated the phrase, attributed to him in two recent reports, that the White House "is a screwed-up mess"

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Saying he did not want to discuss the conditions that had allowed the Watergate scandal to occur, Connally said:

"I will simply say to you that a part of the man's (Mr. Nixon's) discipline, part of the manner of operation . . . resulted in an enormous delegation of authority and responsibility. That has been his ^{style of} operation."

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(From earlier in the story: The impression Connally left with newsmen was that the second White House interlude was a chapter he wanted to make "as short . . . as possible," but that he wanted to leave without signaling a public break with a President whose help may be important in realizing his future political ambitions.)