

White House Says Ziegler Still on Job

Washington Post Staff Writer

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—The White House today officially denied any suggestion that press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler would be replaced as the chief White House spokesman.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren, who has conducted the daily White House briefings every day this week, said Ziegler will continue to be the press secretary and will continue to conduct White House press briefings.

Presidential counselor Melvin R. Laird had raised the possibility of Ziegler's being replaced in an interview Wednesday with The Washington Post. Warren said today Laird was "expressing some personal views. Perhaps there will be something after he meets the President."

Laird is scheduled to meet Mr. Nixon here Friday to confer on a wide variety of domestic issues, including economic problems and plans for Phase IV.

Earlier this month, as part of the White House reorganization brought about in the wake of the Watergate scandal, the President gave Ziegler the added title of assistant to the President.

Since then, Ziegler has held the daily press conferences less often and Warren more. Ziegler has spent many hours in meetings with the President and Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., Warren said.

Ziegler and Haig are the "two principal deputies to the President at the Western White House now," Warren said in explaining why Ziegler was spending so much time with the President that he did not have time to brief the press.

Despite many reports to the contrary, Ziegler has maintained that he will continue as press secretary and that Mr. Nixon wants him to do so. But he has said he has been given other staff duties and will not brief reporters on a daily basis as he usually has in the past.

Asked about Laird's prediction of a presidential press conference to answer Watergate questions, Warren emphasized that no conference is planned at this time.