

No Deals for His Support —Connally

Washington

Former Texas Governor John Connally said yesterday he hasn't been offered any post-election government job by President Ford or Ronald Reagan and he doesn't expect one.

Connally, who has withheld endorsing either candidate in the hotly contested Texas primary May 1, made the statement in denying a report that Mr. Ford plans to name Connally secretary of state after the November contest. A White House spokesman also called the report untrue.

A Los Angeles Times story said Mr. Ford plans to name Connally to succeed Henry Kissinger and that Connally, in return, would campaign for Mr. Ford if he wins the GOP presidential nomination.

The newspaper quoted sources in Houston as saying that foreign policy would be a major issue in the fall campaign and that Kissinger would become a political liability while Connally would be more acceptable to the public.

"I want to say this story is a speculative rumor that's the product of a distorted imagination," Connally said in a telephone interview from Houston. "It is totally untrue."

"In the conversations which I have had with the two principals — President Ford and Governor Reagan — there's never been even the hint of an offer of any post or any assignment now or in the future or after the election," Connally said.

Associated Press