

Flanigan, Malek Next

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The White House Exodus

It is now learned that the departure of Peter M. Flanigan is "imminent" and that Fred Malek is making plans for an early departure.

Flanigan, executive director of the Council on International Economic Policy, has told friends that he plans to leave soon.

Malek, deputy to Roy Ash in President Nixon's Office of Management and Budget, is known to be "making contacts" on the West Coast with potential opportunities in the business world.

Others who have left or are about to leave the administration in the post-Watergate period include two key White House assistants, Melvin Laird and Bryce Harlow, together with Secretary of the Treasury George Shultz.

The Flanigan and Malek departures, when they come, are bound to give rise to further speculation, in some quarters, that these are signs that top men in the administration are leaving a sinking or, at least, a foundering ship.

The reasons for the Flanigan and Malek departures are given as follows:

Flanigan in recent months lost much of his authority in international trade when this activity was taken out of his organization and given to the office of the special trade representative, William Eberle.

Flanigan's predecessor, Peter Peterson, had been given wide-ranging authority for participating in economic policy, including that of meeting

with national leaders on foreign trade.

However, when Flanigan's wings were somewhat clipped, friends said he began to look around.

Malek is described as a "vigorous man" who longs to run his own organization. He thus is seen as growing restless under Roy Ash.

In the earlier days of the administration, Flanigan was heavily involved in recruiting for the President.

Malek at one point was high up in the Committee to Reelect the President.

Of Flanigan's plans, one insider in the White House said: "As early as last January, he was talking about getting out

of government and taking a job in business. He probably never intended to stay as long as he has."

The shifts of key men in the Nixon administration during the last five years have been extensive, perhaps record-setting.

Besides those who have left because of Watergate, the President now has had three Treasury secretaries, three Defense secretaries, three Commerce secretaries, three secretaries of HEW, two secretaries of State, two Interior secretaries, two Agriculture secretaries, two secretaries of Housing, and two secretaries of Transportation.