

A White House letter was formally filed today with the committee, serving notice that Peter M. Flanigan, an economic aide to the President, would refuse to testify under the "long established and fundamental principle" that the President's immediate staff need not submit to Senators' questioning.

Fred P. Graham, NYTimes 13 Apr 72

There were indications last night that other powerful figures in the Senate, including Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.), may delay or oppose the Kleindienst nomination if the White House persists in invoking "executive privilege" on behalf of Flanigan.

John W. Dean III, counsel to the President, invoked the privilege in a letter released yesterday by Judiciary Committee Chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss).

"Under the doctrine of separation of powers, and long established historical precedents, the principle that members of the President's immediate staff not appear and testify before congressional committees with respect to the performance of their duties is firmly established," Dean said.

[Ungar says Dean was formerly an aide to Kleindienst at the Justice Department.]

Sanford J. Ungar, Washington Post
13 Apr 72

In a formal letter to the committee yesterday, White House counsel John Dean III said Flanigan was protected by executive privilege and "cannot accept the committee's invitation to appear."

Patrick J. Sloyan, SF Examiner
13 Apr 72