

Flanigan: 'Rich, Cool'

WASHINGTON — (NWS) — Multimillionaire White House aide Peter M. Flanigan has all the things money can buy and many of the problems power can lend a man.

For weeks, the 48-year-old assistant to President Nixon has been in the spotlight of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. controversy as some senators sought his testimony while the White House claimed executive privilege exempted him from the witness stand.

Today, after weeks of fencing between the White House and the Senate Judiciary Committee, Flanigan finally appeared before the committee.

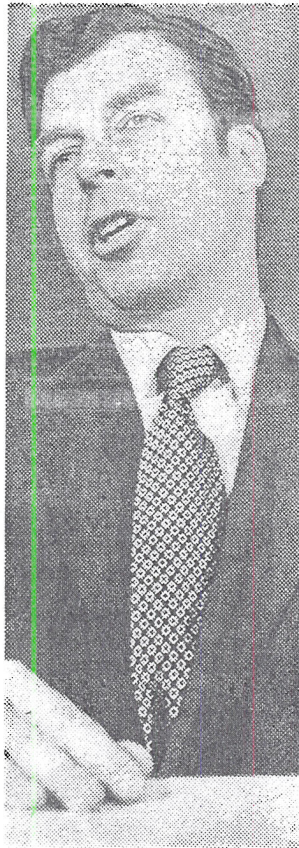
He has been called everything from Mr. Fix-it for big business to a "mini-President." It's the kind of controversy that has surrounded his patrician presence ever since he became a presidential assistant three years ago.

Ride with Hounds

This time, the issue has been whether there was any impropriety in his role as go-between for ITT officials reportedly seeking to influence the Justice Department's now-famous antitrust suit. If the hurly-burly of political struggle ruffled the aplomb of a man used to the quiet of investment houses where you can hear a bond coupon fall, Flanigan didn't show it.

"I'm as clean as a hound's tooth," he said at one point and then went off to ride with the hounds over the exclusive Virginia countryside.

He comes to his upper-crust cool naturally. Flanigan was born to beer and banking millions: his moth-



PETER FLANIGAN

As he testifies today
—AP Photo

er was an Anheuser-Busch heiress, his father chairman of Manufacturers Trust Co., one of New York's largest banks.

He was a Catholic classmate of the late Robert Kennedy at the exclusive Portsmouth Priory prep school in Rhode Island and later demonstrated the kind of brains that money can't buy when he graduated Princeton summa cum laude.

College friends remember him as a "generous guy who always shared what he had with his buddies." He also demonstrated a talent for doing the things that turn a

rich man's son into a formidable man in his own right.

Flanigan flew as a Navy fighter pilot, tried a bachelor year working in London, married (eventually fathering five children) and then settled in as an investment banker with the prestigious Dillon, Read & Co. in New York.

He got a taste for politics in 1959 when he worked for then Vice President Nixon in New York. Nixon liked Flanigan's conservative cut and in 1969 he named him as a \$42,000 a year assistant to handle everything from airline route cases to the effects of smoking.

Business Complaints

But Flanigan soon became a specialist in handling business complaints about various Federal agencies.

But critics soon were complaining that President Nixon's richest aide was confusing the line between redress and advocacy when it came to big business. One observer said.

"When there's something that affects an entire industry, the word is always, 'Check it with Flanigan.' He harkens to the powerful interests and he wants to know where it's going to pinch."

Ralph Nader accused him of running interference for the automobile industry in a successful effort to block mandatory use of safety air-bags by 1974. When Armco Steel Corp. was ordered to stop dumping cyanide waste in the Houston, Tex., Ship Channel, company officials called the White House. Some congressmen claim that Flanigan arranged an eight-month delay in executing the order.