

# Ford Still Supports Flanigan for Envoy

The White House reiterated President Ford's support yesterday for the nomination of Peter M. Flanigan to be U.S. ambassador to Spain, now locked in controversy before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen announced yesterday that the President "stands by" his recommendation of Flanigan, a five-year veteran of the Nixon White House and one of the few top aides during that period to escape the taint of the Watergate scandals.

At the same time Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. Fulbright (D-Ark.) scheduled an executive session next Wednesday to consider hearing further witnesses on the Flanigan nomination, which was bitterly attacked by Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton (D-Mo.).

Eagleton specifically suggested taking sworn testimony from President Nixon's former attorney and campaign fundraiser, Hebert W. Kalmbach, who had told the House Judiciary Committee that Flanigan was involved in the bartering of ambassadorial jobs for campaign contributions.

Both Eagleton and Flanigan, at the nomination hearing Wednesday, cited letters from Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski to make opposing points.

Jaworski wrote Eagleton that the special prosecutor's office had advised the White House "that based on the evi-

dence now in this office, no charge was contemplated against Mr. Flanigan."

Jaworski went on to say: "We did point out that the appropriate person within the White House may wish to consider the testimony concerning Mr. Flanigan by Mr. Herbert Kalmbach . . . relating to the ambassadorial appointment of a Mrs. Ruth Farkas."

Flanigan cited the Jaworski response to the White House as evidence that he had been absolved of any connection with the ongoing investigation of White House ambassadorial and financial dealings with Dr. Farkas, a wealthy New Hampshire contributor to the 1972 Nixon re-election campaign.

Eagleton cited the same response with the suggestion that Flanigan's role in the Farkas appointment may not yet have been fully resolved by the special prosecutor's Office.

Sen. Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said at the hearing that he too had consulted with Jaworski on the Flanigan nomination and was told: "We know the whole story. He is not under investigation. He is not a target."

The special prosecutor's office would not comment on the varying interpretations. It is conducting an investigation into the fund-raising activities of Maurice Stans, chief campaign financing aide to the President Nixon in 1972. The Farkas case is also understood to be under review by the Watergate special Prosecutor.