

Flanigan won't be ambassador

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Ford withdrew yesterday the controversial nomination of Peter Flanigan to be ambassador to Spain.

He acted at the request of

Flanigan, who told Ford in a letter dated yesterday that a long delay in his confirmation "would not be in the best interest of your relations with the Congress nor the country's relations with Spain."

Ford, in a "Dear Pete" letter, told Flanigan:

"Although I fully understand the selfless reasons which led to your decision it is nevertheless with reluctance and deep regret that I accept your request."

to Spain -- at his request

The nomination of Flanigan, who was an advisor to former president Richard Nixon on international economic affairs, had generated controversy over his involvement in the International Telephone & Tele-

graph antitrust case. He received charges that he helped large campaign contributions to get appointments as ambassadors.

Flanigan, 54, denied any wrong-doing or improprieties in testimony given the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee at his confirmation hearing. His nomination died in October under Senate rules with the adjournment of Congress.

Flanigan, in his letter to Ford, referred to the contro-

versy. He said while he believed his record as a White House aide and director of the Council on International Economic Policy would bring him Senate support,

"Given the current political climate," Flanigan said he decided he could best serve the President "by asking that you not resubmit my nomination."