

Sen. Cotton Blocks

By Jack Anderson

The White House has been warned bluntly that its nominee for the vacancy on the Civil Aeronautics Board may "have a long, white beard before he gets a hearing" from the Senate Commerce Committee.

Astonishingly, the warning was delivered by a staunch White House supporter, Sen. Norris Cotton (R-N.H.) who had been promised that Robert Murphy would be reappointed to the CAB.

However, White House aide Peter ("The Fixer") Flanigan phoned the Senator to say Murphy wouldn't be reappointed after all. Angrily, Cotton retorted that he wouldn't support the new appointee. Flanigan said the White House would get its way anyhow.

"Are you telling me I can't fight City Hall?" Sen. Cotton asked.

"Well, in a sense," said Flanigan.

"You better send up a young man, then, because he may have a long, white beard before he gets a hearing. This is a busy committee."

The tough Yankee has managed to hold off the hearing on the new White House nominee for three months now.

Footnote: The Administration nominee is Oklahoma Judge Lee West. Flanigan's involvement in the appointment has brought charges that

American Airlines wants Murphy out and West in. Murphy has opposed American on several issues before the CAB. Both Flanigan and American Airlines deny any behind-the-scenes agreements to dump Murphy for West.

Washington Whirl

White House Connection—A long-time Republican, Mayor Herbert Werner of Eatontown, N.J., has complained to President Nixon that John Ehrlichman may have cost his town a \$25 million Army electronics facility. Werner wrote Nixon that he and an associate were present when a New York builder, Lester Sworman, told them he had access to the White House and that "Ehrlichman would see to it that Dworman received the award." Sure enough, Dworman got the \$25 million deal. The General Accounting Office later charged it was awarded on the basis of "favoritism" and "unresponsive bidding." Dworman told us he didn't know Ehrlichman or anyone else in the White House. Ehrlichman did not return our call.