

# Ford Avoids New Pledge On Flanigan

By John P. MacKenzie  
Washington Post Staff Writer

White House press secretary Ron Nessen said yesterday that Peter M. Flanigan is still President Ford's choice as U.S. ambassador to Spain despite word from Capitol Hill that the President will let the nomination die.

Nessen said he could not give assurances, however, that Mr. Ford will push for Senate confirmation or resubmit the nomination if that is required by Senate rules to keep the nomination alive.

On Thursday Sen. Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.), a staunch Ford ally and Senate minority whip, predicted that there would be no attempt to revive the nomination, which remains bottled up in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Opposition centered on charges that Flanigan took part in the "selling" of ambassadorships to wealthy contributors to the Nixon reelection campaign.

Nessen disclosed the resignations of two other Nixon administration holdovers, presidential counsel J. Fred Buzhardt and special consultant Patrick J. Buchanan.

Buzhardt, who played a leading role in helping former President Nixon resist turning over White House tape recordings to Congress and the

Watergate special prosecutor, left his job Oct. 6, Nessen said. Asked why he had not mentioned the resignation earlier, he replied, "Nobody asked me."

Nessen announced the Buchanan resignation, which is effective Nov. 15, without being asked. He released an exchange of letters between Buchanan and President Ford.

Buchanan praised Mr. Ford's leadership. He also said Richard Nixon "will deserve and shall receive the favorable judgment of history" for courage during years of war and domestic discord.

Mr. Ford thanked Buchanan for service in the transition period and commended him "for your great dedication to our nation."

Nessen said Mr. Ford "is expected to sign" the major campaign spending reform bill that cleared the House Thursday and is on its way to the President's desk. Nessen said the President would surely veto the House-Senate resolution cutting off military aid to Turkey, but he did not know when the veto would occur.

The President met yesterday with his Cabinet, where he heard a report from Attorney General William B. Saxbe expressing hope that the turbulence in South Boston would be eased by a long holiday weekend. Mr. Ford told Saxbe to keep him posted on developments, Nessen said.

Mr. Ford bought his wife, Betty, home from Bethesda Naval Hospital by helicopter. They were greeted by a cheering White House staff as they returned. The President scheduled a Saturday meeting of his new Citizens Action Committee to fight inflation and planned to spend the weekend in Washington.