

Ex-Nixon Aide Denies He Sold Envoy Posts

Washington

Former Nixon aide Peter Flanigan denied yesterday that he ever engaged in selling ambassadorships, but Flanigan acknowledged that the White House promised to sponsor large campaign contributors for specific jobs.

Flanigan, whose nomination as ambassador to Spain was strongly opposed by

Senator Thomas Eagleton (Dem-Mo.), told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his confirmation hearing that he urged Herbert Kalmbach to approach Ruth Farkas for a large contribution in 1972, a presidential election year.

Mrs. Farkas, who gave \$250,000 to the Nixon campaign, now is ambassador to

Luxembourg. Kalmbach is in prison on charges of corrupt practices in campaign financing.

"I deny the implication that there was a commitment to exchange an ambassadorship for a large contribution by Mrs. Farkas," Flanigan said.

But he acknowledged he was aware of some campaign-finance practices.

"I do know of instances where people said, 'we will make a contribution or a larger contribution if you will agree to a job.'" Flanigan testified. "And in each instance the answer was, that I know of, 'we will certainly put our name forward, we will sponsor you for consideration,' and no more than that."

"It's Kalmbach who is in the penitentiary for selling ambassadorships and it's Flanigan who presumably will go to a posh post in Europe," said Eagleton. "That is not equal justice."

Urging the committee to kill Flanigan's carry-over appointment by Mr. Nixon, Eagleton said Mrs. Farkas had donated \$250,000, then turned down an offer for an ambassadorship to Costa Rica.

Mrs. Farkas told the Nixon administration "she didn't want to pay \$250,000 for a banana republic," Eagleton said. "She wanted something in Europe, she wanted something better."

Flanigan denied a series of accusations by Eagleton of improper actions, including influencing government agencies on behalf of various corporations. He said all his actions were taken in the national interest.

"The evidence is strong that Peter Flanigan was the key man in Washington. He was the man who, in several known cases, paved the way with the agencies of government," said Eagleton.

"I have never been a fundraiser," Flanigan said. "That doesn't mean that I did not solicit from particular friends of mine."

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PETER FLANIGAN AND SENATOR EAGLETON
The senator opposes Flanigan's nomination