

□ filed Nix Ad

Peter Flanigan, the White House Jack-of-All Trades:

A 'Problem Solver' to Admirers, a 'Fixer' to Critics

by Richard Halloran

..... Bureaucrats recognize that Mr. Flanigan has "clout." One veteran of several Administrations said, "His telephone call is one of the few meaningful calls around here. A lot of guys in the White House are not taken seriously. But you never ignore Flanigan."

There was further agreement that Mr. Flanigan was the most influential official in the Administration on critical issues that affect businessmen.

"He's the guy who people in our industry turn to," said a steel executive. "And we wouldn't turn to him unless he came through."

.....

An official in the Department of Commerce said that, at the top, "the business community pays no attention to this department; if you have a policy problem, you go see Peter Flanigan - and he is available."

"Peter Flanigan," the official said with a sigh, "is to the department of Commerce what Henry Kissinger is to the Department of State."

.....

"There are political payoffs all the time," [said a bureaucrat who has watched Mr. Flanigan in action]. "But nothing is written down. Things don't have to be said. Most things are left unsaid and there are just 'understandings.' Anyone who looks for specific deals is just naive."

.....