

# FLANIGAN OFFERS ANTITRUST VIEWS

MAR 28 1972

Nixon Aide, Who May Resist  
Senate's Inquiry on I.T.T.,  
Speaks at Dinner Here

(FINANCIAL  
SECTION)  
NYTimes  
By MICHAEL C. JENSEN

Peter M. Flanigan, the Presidential assistant who played a controversial role in the settlement of an antitrust case involving the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, discussed the Administration's antitrust posture last week at a private, off-the-record dinner meeting in New York of money managers and corporate and foundation executives.

The dinner was sponsored by Dreyfus-Marine Midland Inc. (which manages about \$10-million in I.T.T. pension funds) and was held in the concern's private dining room.

Mr. Flanigan freely answered questions at the dinner last Tuesday, although his appearance before a Senate committee is in doubt because of Administration resistance. The committee is investigating a possible link between I.T.T.'s contribution to the Republican National Convention and the anti-trust settlement.

## Antitrust Policy

Although the Presidential assistant declined to discuss the I.T.T. case, he reportedly observed that, in setting United States antitrust policy, the ability of domestic concerns to compete abroad must be kept in mind.

One person who attended the dinner said Mr. Flanigan indicated that the Nixon Administration approved a merger of the National Steel Corporation and the Granite City Steel Corporation partly to make the steel companies more competitive with foreign concerns.

Mr. Flanigan also reportedly told the assembled guests — some of them executives of the nation's largest corporations — that if the objective of helping American businessmen to compete more effectively abroad required new antitrust legislation, it might be sought.

## Flanigan Comments

Mr. Flanigan denied yesterday in a telephone interview that he had specifically discussed Administration approval of the National-Granite City merger. Rather, he said, he talked more generally about its meeting the criteria for improving international competition. He also asserted that he did not recall discussing new antitrust legislation.

Mr. Flanigan said he was unaware that the dinner was sponsored by Dreyfus-Marine Midland and thought when he was invited that it was being held by the Dreyfus Fund, an affiliated entity.

"The reason why I accepted was that it was an opportunity to talk to financial leaders on international trade," he said.

Persons who attended the dinner meeting — the guests totaled about 30 — said Mr. Flanigan spoke for 45 minutes and answered questions covering a wide range of subjects.

He reportedly denied any knowledge of the financial arrangements for the Republican National Convention in San Diego, which I.T.T. offered to help finance.

Mr. Flanigan said, however, according to one person at the meeting, that it is customary for business to make contributions for such meetings. Mr. Flanigan said later he did not recall making the statement.

The major thrust of Mr. Flanigan's talk, one source said, was international trade. He was recently named President Nix-

Continued on Page 61, Column 1

Continued From Page 59

on's assistant for international economic affairs.

He explained to the group at the outset why he would not discuss the I.T.T. case. Although he had not yet been invited to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee, he said, the President might invoke executive privilege to prevent his appearance if he were invited. For that reason, Mr. Flanigan continued, he did not want to discuss before a private group what he might decline to discuss before a Senate committee.

Mr. Flanigan's involvement with the I.T.T. case came when he arranged for a New York financial analyst, Richard J. Ramsden, to make an "independent" analysis of the corporation's "hardship" plea regarding its antitrust suit. Mr. Flanigan was also cited by I.T.T.'s president, Harold S. Geneen, as one of the Government officials Mr. Geneen had contacted about antitrust policies.

A spokesman for Dreyfus-Marine Midland, Inc., said the private dinner at which Mr. Flanigan spoke was one of a series that was initiated about a year ago. Previous speakers have included economists, government figures (such as Henry A. Kissinger, the Presidential assistant) and other public personalities.