[Administration of the Rural Electrification Act: *Hearings before a Subcomm. of the S. Comm. on Agriculture and Forestry (Part 3)*, 78th Cong. 614-616 (1944).]

Mr. Beedy. Did you at any time report to your superiors the proposal—􏰂I am not asking you what now, anything about the conversation—I am asking you whether you did, as the result of Mr. Carson􏰄s visit and the information which he brought to you concerning **[\*615]** R. E. A. at that time—whether you took any action on it? Did you report to your superior?

Mr. Daniels. Of course, Mr. Beedy, this is the point that I want to make. As Senator Shipstead has said, I do not stand in any way on the ground that anything I may say may incriminate me. I do stand very firmly on the position that, as the confidential assistant to the President, in an office created by the Congress for that purpose, it is not in the public interest for me to report any of my relations on any public matters with the President of the United States.

Mr. Beedy. I cannot speak for the committee, but at first blush it would seem to me that you might well take that ground when questioned as to any conversation you had, but on the plain question as to whether you reported this conference, and the result of it, to your superior, the President, a plain answer of yes or no would in no way involve the public interest.

Mr. Daniels. I want to say, Mr. Beedy, that I feel that any question which might lead to the discussion of my confidential relations with the President is such a question that I could not answer.

Mr. Beedy. I don’t want any of the discussions with him, but I want to know whether you paid any attention to this information or did anything about it, this information concerning R. E. A. that Mr. Carson brought to you. I think you can say yes or no. And I want to be as fair as I can about it. I don’t propose to pursue that any further. I can’t see that that leads you into any complications, or by any possibility would expose you to any embarrassment.

Mr. Daniels. Mr. Beedy, I am interested in any report that comes to me about any subject in the Government of the United States.

Mr. Beedy. We would assume so, but sometimes matters slip our minds.

Mr. Daniels. And I was interested in Mr. Carson’s report.

Mr. Beedy. Now, did you make a report of it?

Mr. Daniels. I must again say that any—

Mr. Beedy (interposing). Now, in this question I am not asking you to whom. Did you make any report of it?

Mr. Daniels. I made no formal report about this matter.

Mr. Beedy. And you took it up with nobody?

Mr. Daniels. I discussed this matter with a number of people.

Mr. Beedy. Did you make what you would call an “informal” report to anybody?

Mr. Daniels. I would say that I discussed it with some of my associates.

Mr. Beedy. Did you discuss it with anybody in authority?

Mr. Daniels. There again I believe, Mr. Beedy, I could not answer that.

Mr. Beedy. You want to refuse to answer that question, the plain fact of yes or no, without going into what the discussion was, Mr. Daniels?

Mr. Daniels. I do.

Mr. Beedy. Did you discuss that interview with Secretary Wickard? I am referring to the Carson interview.

Mr. Daniels. I feel that that question leads into a discussion of my confidential position, and I must say that I cannot answer that either.

Senator Gillette. Did you discuss this matter with Mr. Carson in your confidential relationship?

**[\*616]** Mr. Daniels. Mr. Carson came to me in our relationship as friend to friend.

Senator Gillette. Then why can’t you testify as to what took place between you and Mr. Carson as a friend, not as a secretary to the President?

Mr. Daniels. I have answered that question, Senator. I have said exactly what Mr. Carson proposed. My relationship there I have answered. I have no such personal relationship with the Secretary of Agriculture.

Senator Gillette. Just one step further. Then, after this conversation with Mr. Carson, you said you discussed it with some of your associates. Were you acting in that discussion as the secretary to the President, or were you discussing it as a friend of Mr. Carson?

Mr. Daniels. I was discussing it as a report which had come to me from my friend, Mr. Carson, with other people.

Senator Gillette. Not as a matter of public interest?

Mr. Daniels. Of course, Senator, I was interested in the matter of public interest.

Senator Gillette. And you were discussing it with your associates as such?

Mr. Daniels. Yes.

Senator Gillette. All right. That’s all.

Mr. Beedy. Now, will you tell us who those associates were that you discussed it with, as a matter of public interest?

Mr. Daniels. The people I discussed that with were my associates who are bound in a somewhat similar relationship with the President.

Mr. Beedy. Who were they, please?

Mr. Daniels. I must say, Mr. Beedy, I regret to say that I feel this is a question that leads me directly to the whole confidential relationship surrounding the President and te secretariat of the President.