[Letter from John W. Dean III, Counsel to the President, to Henry S. Reuss, Chairman, Subcommittee on Conservation and Natural Resources, Committee on Government Operations, United States House of Representatives (Dec. 18, 1971), *reprinted in* Comm. Staff of the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, Refusals by the Executive Branch to Provide Information to the Congress 1964-1973, at 421 (Comm. Print 1974).]

The White House,

*Washington, December 18, 1971*.

Hon. Henry S. Reuss,

*Chairman, Conservation and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

Dear Mr. Chairman: This will acknowledge receipt and thank you for your letter of December 13, 1972 inviting Mr. Peter Flanigan to appear before your Committee on December 21 and testifying at its hearing regarding the Government’s action against ARMCO Steel Company.

As note in my letter to you of October 20, 1971 in response to a similar invitation to Mr. Flanigan to testify on this subject, as a matter of long established principle and precedent members of the President’s immediate staff do not appear before Congressional committees to testify regarding the performance of their duties on behalf of the President.

Therefore, Mr. Flanigan must respectfully decline your invitation to appear before the Conservation and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

John W. Dean III,

*Counsel to the President*.