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Ford Says Many Call Profit 'Ripoff'

United Press International

Vice President Gerald R. Ford told a group of businessmen yesterday that many Americans mistakenly view legitimate profits as a "rip off" and "something the bad guys steal from the good guys."

If this view persists, he said, it could lead to destruction of a free economy and creation of a monolithic bureaucracy. In remarks before a workshop sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers and Chamber of Commerce, Ford called on the nation's businessmen to help "people understand what profit is all about."

Ford also said American oil companies should be prevented from receiving a windfall because of current energy shortages but should not "be made the scapegoats in this energy crisis."