

Ford Scores Committee for Lack of Detail

By Jules Witcover
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CANTON, Ohio, July 27— Vice President Gerald R. Ford today branded the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment proceedings "a travesty" for not having produced more specific charges against President Nixon in proposed articles of impeachment.

Stepping up his attack on the committee, which is expected to vote articles of impeachment by a wide margin, Ford told a press conference here that the money spent by the committee on its inquiry has been "wasted if they can't do better in the drafting of the articles of impeachment than they have done so far."

"You would think that after spending about \$1.5 million under Mr. (John) Doar and Mr. (Albert) Jenner, they could come up with a page or two of specific charges," Ford said.

Noting that in earlier impeachment proceeding against federal judges, specific charges were drawn up in the articles, the Vice President said, "It just amazes me" that President Nixon was not being given the same treatment.

"The committee apparently, or a majority of the committee, is not doing in this case what was done in the past in impeachment cases," he said. "I think it's a travesty that they are not."

Ford, after earlier calling for the impeachment proceedings to be expedited in fairness to Mr. Nixon, thus joined the fight of Republicans on the committee to have more specific articles drawn, a procedure that

about Republicans on the committee who have indicated they would vote for impeachment articles. He said he was "disappointed" at their position but when asked if he would campaign for their re-election, Ford said he would do so if his schedule permits.

Asked whether his displeasure with the way the impeachment proceedings were being handled was so strong he would resign if the President is impeached, Ford said he would not, and would take the oath of office succeeding Mr. Nixon.

The Vice President was here to review the annual Pro Football Hall of Fame parade and to officiate at the enshrinement ceremonies of those elected to the Hall of Fame.

Today's festivities were marred by the players' strike against the National Football League owners, ducing an exhibition game between the Buffalo Bills and the St. Louis Cardinals to a rookies' scrimmage.

Ford did not attend the game and in his pre-game press conference the former University of Michigan football player sidestepped questions about how he stood on the players' demands. He did put in a plug for a speedy resolution, however, in behalf of the fans, whom he called "grass-roots America" and more important than either the players or the owners.

At the ceremonies, Ford said that as a former player the recognition the new Hall "probably deep down in my of Famers were receiving heart I would have rather received than the office I now old." He noted the late President Lyndon B. Johnson was quoted as saying "there was nothing wrong with Jerry Ford except that he played football too long without a helmet," but said with or without a helmet, "I was honored to play."

The official emphasis today was on football, but the plight of the Republican Party in the post-Watergate era clearly was not driven from Ford's mind. As he stood in the reviewing stand watching the parade, a very sad-faced clown came by. The Vice President turned to Rep. Ralph S. Regula (R-Ohio), the local House member, and said: "There goes another Republican ex-congressman."

might cause some delay in getting the impeachment issue to the floor of the House.

But Ford denied he had worked out any plan with the President on how to deal with or criticize the Judiciary Committee. He repeated that he is convinced Mr. Nixon is innocent.

The Vice President also reiterated his concern that what he called "partisan attacks" on the President by some Democrats on the committee were delaying the proceedings, and hence "conceivably" encouraging a foreign power to take advantage of the domestic situation.

As he has been the last two days, Ford was notably more gentle in his remarks