

Ford Causes Speculation He'll Seek Re-election

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 (UPI)—President Ford started a flurry of election speculation tonight when he said he would return to Congress "at least three more times" to deliver a State of the Union message.

His first major speech to a joint session of Congress, he said, was not an unusual address or a formal report on the State of the Union. "God willing, I will have at least three more chances to do that," he said, with only a hint of emphasis on the words "at least."

To some, it appeared that Mr. Ford was announcing a bid for President in 1976. Even if he left the White House at the end of this term, he would still give three State of the Union messages.

Some legislators said Mr. Ford's key words were "at least." One of his closest friends, Representative Albert H. Quie, Republican of Minnesota, said "it means he's going to keep on" beyond 1976.

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