

A Country to Talk To

Reprinted from yesterday's late editions

"I want to open up this country to the whole world," President Ford said Sunday night as he discussed his ideas on American foreign policy over supper in a garden on Ellicott Street NW.

"I don't want any country to ever feel it does not have someone to whom to talk," he added.

Mr. Ford was eating a late dinner at the buffet given by Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan Marshall for their longtime friend, Rep. John J. Rhodes, minority leader of the House, and Mrs. Rhodes. The Marshalls, Rhodeses and Fords were seated together at a round table in the almost deserted garden.

By the time the Fords arrived at 8 p.m., many of the 250 guests had gone home. The Fords were late because the President had been delayed on the Burning Tree golf course and hadn't re-

turned to the White House until 7 o'clock.

Usually, he blames First Lady Betty Ford for his tardiness, but this time he took all the blame. "It was all my fault," he said.

He has not taken Sen. Hubert Humphrey's advice given on radio over the weekend. Humphrey suggested that Mr. Ford "give up golf and stay away from the party circuit" and devote all his time to the problem of inflation.

"We're spending a good bit of time on it," said Mr. Ford after someone quoted Humphrey to him.

Later when Barbara MacGregor, wife of former Nixon campaign manager Clark MacGregor, told Mr. Ford he looked tired, he seemed surprised and said he had played tennis Saturday with White House chief of staff Alex-

ander Haig and 18 holes of golf Sunday afternoon.

"You know, you can only work 10 or 12 hours a day and then you have to have a change of pace," he said.

Mr. Ford said he misses his swimming pool, but is trying to get comparable exercise through tennis and golf in his struggle to keep his weight down.

"But I have high hopes of a swimming pool soon," he said. "They have found a nice site out by the dog kennels." (Construction of a White House swimming pool is scheduled to begin about Oct. 1).

President Ford quipped that someone had suggested he "turn the press over to the dogs" and get back the Old White House swimming area, now covered by the press headquarters.

"But I wouldn't do that to the press," he said.