

FBI Probe of Ford To Raise 'Questions'

11/1/73
By Richard L. Lyons
Washington Post Staff Writer

The chairman of the Senate Rules Committee said yesterday the FBI investigation of Vice President-designate Gerald R. Ford has disclosed "some things that will certainly raise questions" when confirmation hearings open today.

Sen. Howard Cannon (D-Nev.) made this statement to reporters after reading the 1,700-page raw file of unevaluated data compiled by the FBI on House Minority Leader Ford.

Cannon said the questions deal with "the laundering of campaign funds" and other matters. He declined to say whether he would vote for Ford on the basis of what he had heard or whether he believed the information

would be embarrassing to Ford.

But Sen. Marlow Cook (R-Ky.), who as the senior Republican on the committee is the only other member of the Senate permitted to read the FBI data, said when asked if he had seen anything that might jeopardize Ford's confirmation, "I wouldn't think so under any circumstances." Cook hadn't made his way all through the files.

Cannon added that nothing he had seen indicated that Ford's nomination faces particularly rough sailing.

Cannon did not explain what "laundering" he referred to. It has been reported and conceded by Ford that during the 1970 campaign he

See **FORD**, A3, Col. 1

Cannon Finishes Ford Probe File, Sees 'Questions' Facing Nominee

FORD, From A1

sent a check for \$11,500, representing contributions from individuals, to the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, which at about the same time sent him a check in about the same amount. Ford contended this was a proper transaction, that he had reached his limit on one source of funds, but not on the other.

Cannon and Cook said they believed Ford is the most investigated nominee

in the nation's history. Since his nomination Oct. 12 to succeed Spiro T. Agnew, who resigned after admitting tax evasion, 350 FBI agents in 33 field offices have conducted 1,000 interviews. In addition, the General Accounting Office, Internal Revenue Service and congressional staffs have conducted other investigations.

Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee met yesterday to discuss ground rules for their own hearings

on Ford. They asked Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.) to try to persuade the Justice Department to permit committee members other than the top two to view the FBI files.

But members indicated they will not press the point too hard because they will have their own GAO report and do not want to be accused of delaying action. Speaker Carl Albert has been pressing Rodino to bring Ford's nomination to a House vote before Thanksgiving.