

House Plans Vote on Ford in 4

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House Democrats bought a 10-day Thanksgiving recess yesterday by promising that the House will vote during the week of Dec. 3 on the nomination of Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford to be Vice President.

A group of Republican members had made a series of brief speeches earlier in the day citing a long list of unfinished business, including Ford's nomination, and trying to embarrass Democrats into cancelling the planned vacation. A leadership meeting produced the date for a vote on Ford and apparently deflated the Republican effort.

In a related action, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.) reportedly won agreement from the Justice Department to permit about seven, rather than two of his

committee's 38 members to read the 1,700 pages of un-evaluated data the FBI has accumulated on Ford.

The Senate Rules Committee had accepted the department's decision that only the chairman and senior Republican on the committee could see the material. Democrats on the House committee rejected this, calling it outrageous that the information collected at considerable cost and effort cannot be seen by the members of Congress who need it most.

House committee hearings on Ford will begin next Thursday (the recess is to start that night) and continue on Friday and the following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve. There is talk of night committee sessions. The Senate committee plans another hearing next Wednesday.

The Republican effort to

keep the House at work except for Thanksgiving was initiated by a dozen young members. They listed energy needs, pension reform, Social Security, education and Ford as unfinished business.

Rep. H. John Heinz (R-Pa.) said it would be an "incredible affront" to the public for Congress to go on holiday with so much work left.

Rep. Richard Hanna (D-Calif.) replied that he found

all this Republican "enthusiasm refreshing" and hadn't realized there was so much GOP support for the various reform bills "that have been before you so long."

Weeks

Rep. Fortney Stark (D-Calif.) said he could understand the Republican position: "If we were Republicans we wouldn't want to go home either."