

## Press Clips

by Alexander Cockburn

THE PRESS MAY FIND an ally in Gerald Ford, if he ever makes it to the Vice-Presidential seat. To judge him on past form, journalists may expect a generous flow of classified documents from his office. This optimism arises out of his performance on the Warren Commission.

Ford was quizzed about this at the confirmation hearings the other day in Washington, in particular about the indecent haste with which he and an aide rushed out a vulgar volume called "Portrait of an Assassin," published by Simon and Schuster in 1965. The New York Times quoted Ford as saying that he made \$10,000 on the book (investigators swarming through the S&S offices last week confirmed this) and \$5000 for an article in Life magazine; also that the material he used was "not classified" but merely a readable version of what was in the Warren report.

The Times could have checked some more. Ford did pinch material from sessions of the Commission which was not available to the public, notably the agitated discussion of what to do about the information suddenly received from Texas that Oswald might have been an employe or agent of the FBI. Ford used the substance of the classified transcript of this meeting of January 27, 1964, and made it the first chapter of his book.

There are also those who feel that in his rush to print Ford sailed to windward of an understanding that Commission members would not ventilate personal views about their enquiry, and certainly not before publication of the report on September 28, 1964. Ford had his article in Life and was picking up \$5000 on October 2, 1964. Let's hope his businesslike attitude to information won't desert him in the months to come.