

FORD SEES THREAT TO FOREIGN POLICY

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Says Democratic Congress
Gains Could Imperil Peace
—G.O.P. Drive Lags

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By JOHN HERBERS
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CLEVELAND, Oct. 22—President Ford contended today that if the Democrats gained a wide margin of Congressional seats in the election next months the chances for a bipartisan foreign policy would be threatened and "peace could be in jeopardy."

The President made the statement in a political speech in Oklahoma City as it became apparent, from the statements of Republicans themselves, that Mr. Ford's efforts to help faltering Republican candidates by his nationwide tours were not enough to counter an apparent lack of interest in the party's nominees.

The public attendance at the Ford rallies has been disappointing to Republican leaders in some areas. At noon today, when the President spoke in behalf of the re-election campaign of Senator Henry L. Bellmon of Oklahoma, six high school bands and

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a number of students were brought in to help fill the 12,500-seat auditorium—and still there were some empty seats.

It was at this rally that Mr. Ford made the statement about the possible damage to his foreign policy. Previously, he has contended that a "veto-proof" Congress would encourage inflation because a Congress controlled more heavily than it is now by Democrats would exceed his budget.

Since World War II, he said, there has been a tradition of a bipartisan foreign policy. But he added:

"Unfortunately, this Congress, dominated by the opposition, doesn't seem to understand this and I'm concerned that if we get a Congress that is veto-proof or a Congress that is the wrong philosophy, both domestically and internationally, the possibility for the next two years, when our country faces the challenges in the Middle East, the challenges in the Mediterranean, the challenges in the Caribbean and Latin America, the challenges in the Pacific—as we try to work to broaden

détente, as we try to continue the normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China, as we, in the White House, and those in the Congress who understand bipartisanship and who believe that partisanship should end at the water's edge—if we get the wrong kind of Congress, peace could be in jeopardy."

"So I end my remarks here today by pledging with you to give to America—not to me—a Congress that will be far-sighted, visionary, imaginative and cooperative, so that we can have peace abroad, so we can work on our problems at home."

In city after city that Mr. Ford visited last Saturday and today, however, Republican leaders have been unable to build the enthusiasm and support they hoped for the President's visit, which are designed to raise money and get out Republican workers.

Clarence Warner, the Oklahoma Republican chairman, said attendance at a \$500-a-plate breakfast fund-raiser in Oklahoma City today was a disappointment. He said he sold 57 tickets, but several of the tables paid for were empty.

Mr. Warner recited a number of reasons for the poor support and attendance for the Presidential speech, including Mr. Ford's pardon of former President Richard M. Nixon, his proposal for a 5 percent surcharge on middle and higher incomes, his support of repeal of the oil depletion allowance, and falling prices for cattle.