

# Ford Confirmation Gets a House OK

Washington

The House Judiciary Committee voted 29 to 8 yesterday to confirm House minority leader Gerald R. Ford to be vice president.

House leaders scheduled floor debate and a vote on the nomination for next Thursday and laid plans to swear in Ford immediately after. *6 DEC*

The Senate approved the Ford nomination Tuesday on a 92-to-3 vote.

Opposition to Ford within the Judiciary Committee was led by two California Democrats, Representative Don Edwards of San Jose and Representative Jerome R. Waldie of Antioch, who said they would give their reasons during the six hours

scheduled for floor debate Thursday.

Approval of Ford is regarded as certain, with estimates of the vote varying. Waldie said he is looking for 70 votes against the GOP congressman. Ford has predicted 25 "no" votes. Other estimates of the opposition range from 35 to 45 votes.

Yesterday's 29-to-8 vote did not reflect all of the opposition within the Judiciary Committee. Representative Joshua Eilberg (Dem.-Pa.) said he favors reporting the confirmation resolution to the House floor, but indicated he would then vote against Ford.

Representative John Seiberling (Dem.-Ohio) voted present on the resolution

and announced he would vote against Ford on the floor. All the votes against Ford were cast by Democrats.

Edwards said he opposes Ford because of Ford's voting record on civil rights legislation, his use of Justice Department information during his attempt to impeach Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, and "a lack of understanding of constitutional rights."

Calling Ford "honest and candid," Edwards said the Michigan Republican nevertheless "does not have the high stature, great sensitivity and good judgment required of a President."

Waldie said Ford's use of Justice Department information in his effort to bring

about the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas showed "disrespect for the rule of law." He charged that the impeachment move was motivated by administration anger over the Senate's rejection of President Nixon's Supreme Court nominations of Judge Clement F. Haynsworth and former Judge G. Harrold Carswell.

Ford has denied Waldie's charge.

During committee consideration of the nomination, committee chairman Peter Rodino (Dem.-N.J.) said the legislative history of the 25th Amendment, including congressional debate, shows "the President has the unquestioned right to nominate a man he can work with ideologically and politically."

Representative Jack Brooks (Dem.-Tex.), who also supported Ford, noted speculation that Ford may succeed to the presidency and said, "If he does become President, he'll be a vast improvement over the one we've got. . . I'd like to promote him. I don't think vice president is high enough."

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