

Ford's Hopes for Compromise

Washington

Vice President Gerald Ford warned yesterday that White House defiance of a House Judiciary Committee subpoena would "add fuel to the fire" of the impeachment threat facing President Nixon.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters Ford seemed in effect to be urging a compromise between the pending request for evidence by the judiciary committee, which he characterized as too broad, and total White House refusal to cooperate.

His remarks came before the White House attacked the committee request as irresponsible.

Ford appeared more concerned about the reaction of House members to White House resistance to provide information than about any legal technicalities.

He said he was not sure whether defying a subpoena would in itself be an impeachable offense. But, he added: "A totally adamant attitude, which I don't think exists now, is just one of those catalysts that would make the House react differently from the way they might react otherwise."

"We're dealing with practicalities here, rather than fine legal points," Ford said. "A jury of 435 members would have to take into account" practical matters.

United Press