



Ford received an honorary degree yesterday from General James Duckett, the president of The Citadel UPI Telephoto

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His Tough Talk

Ford's Defense of Nixon

Charleston, S.C.

Vice President Gerald Ford said yesterday that the staff of the House Judiciary Committee appears to be seeking to "dictate proceedings" involving impeachment of President Nixon.

"If I were a member of the committee on judiciary, I would start corraling the staff and saying 'You work for us, you aren't telling us how the impeachment proceedings should go ahead,'" the Vice President said.

His vigorous criticism of

the judiciary committee staff came in response to questions at a news conference on the campus of the Citadel, a military college here.

It was his most vigorous defense of President Nixon since the beginning of the conflict between the White House and the judiciary committee over tapes and other material sought by the panel.

Ford said he did not think that either the White House

or members of the judiciary committee are trying to dictate impeachment proceedings.

But he said it is his impression that the committee staff is "having too big an influence."

He said he felt Mr. Nixon has been cooperative in furnishing materials to the committee and that the committee, in turn, has demanded too much. He said the committee now appears to be on "a fishing expedition."

New York Times