

MICHIGAN IS HOST TO 2 G.O.P. CHIEFS

But the Vice President and
the President Never Meet
as They Appear in State

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SOUTHFIELD, Mich., April 10—For a few brief minutes this morning, Michigan played host to the nation's two top political leaders.

President Nixon was just arriving. Vice President Ford was just leaving.

Their paths never crossed, but their visits provided a few frantic hours for some of the state's top Republicans, including Gov. William G. Milliken and Senator Robert P. Griffin.

Up by dawn, the Governor and the Senator attended an early morning breakfast at which Mr. Ford addressed a crowd of about 500 Republicans in this community near Detroit.

Then, even before Mr. Ford had finished speaking, Governor Milliken and Senator Griffin dashed off to an airport between Saginaw and Lansing, about 100 miles away, to greet the President.

Nixon's First Foray

Mr. Ford's appearance here this morning at a \$50-a-plate breakfast for Representative William S. Broomfield and a reception last evening in nearby Troy for Representative Robert J. Hüber was planned many weeks ago.

In contrast, Mr. Nixon's first campaign foray since 1972 was arranged only a week ago. He flew into the state's Eighth Congressional District today to barnstorm on behalf of James M. Sparling Jr., the Republican candidate next Tuesday in a special Congressional election.

There have been reports that the White House was behind the President's visit and that Mr. Sparling, despite the advice of some of the state's Republican leaders, agreed to invite Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Ford, who had urged the President to campaign for Mr. Sparling, said just a week ago that he, too, might go into the Eighth District a day or two after Mr. Nixon's visit. Mr. Ford is from Michigan, and is popular with the state's Republicans.

Distraction for Candidate

However, at a news conference last night in Troy, Mr. Ford said that he would not make the visit. He said he had been invited to appear there next Monday, on Election eve, but had a long-standing commitment to attend a Republican function that night in California.

The Vice President also said he felt that to appear on the same day as the President might prove something of a distraction for the candidate. He ruled out an appearance on Friday on the ground that he did not feel he should campaign on Good Friday, but he did not explain why he could not schedule an appearance

there tomorrow, a day after the President's visit.

Mr. Ford leaves Saturday morning for a week in and around Palm Springs, Calif., a week in which he plans some relaxation and some campaign appearances for Congressional candidates.

The Vice President's decision not to follow Mr. Nixon into Michigan's Eighth Congressional District was viewed by some as an indication that the White House wanted a clear-cut test of the President's standing with the people at this crucial point in the House impeachment inquiry.