

Ford Asserts He Sought Compromise Over Tapes

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., April 14—Vice President Ford said today that he sought to work out a compromise last week between the White House and the House Judiciary Committee to avoid a confrontation over tape recordings sought by the impeachment panel.

This was the first indication that Mr. Ford had been involved in trying to head off the committee's subsequent decision to subpoena the requested tapes.

Mr. Ford, who is here for a week of relaxation and Republican party functions, said in response to questions that he "got involved from both sides . . . the White House on the one side and members of the committee on the other."

He described himself as "sort of the intermediary, trying to get everybody together."

The committee voted last Thursday to subpoena the 41 or 42 taped conversations between President Nixon and his aides after rejecting the White House offer to supply transcripts of at least some of the tapes it felt were relevant to the impeachment inquiry.

Agreement Sought

Mr. Ford said he spent most of last Thursday morning working with the White House and various members of the committee. He said he tried to get an agreement that the White House supply the requested material as soon as the transcripts could be typed.

"I felt that this was the very best evidence of the willingness of the White House to cooperate," he said.

"The White House, through me, passed this word to the committee and it was agreed that these tapes or the transcripts of them would be delivered as soon as the mechanics were taken care of. Unfortunately, time ran out and the subpoena was issued."

Mr. Ford said that he felt there had been "great sympathy on the part of many members of the committee that this would have been good evidence of White House good faith."

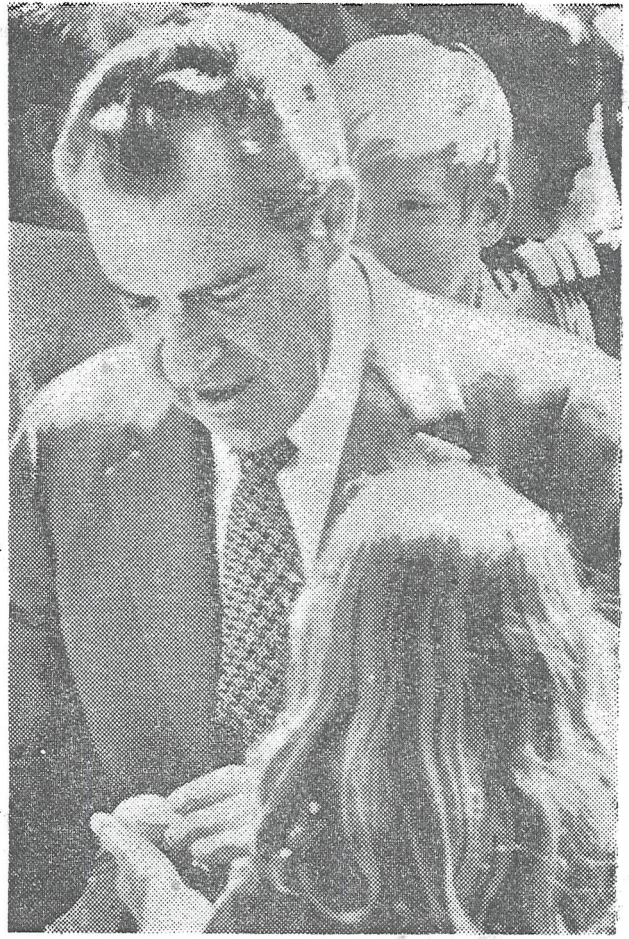
"But time kind of caught up Calls Subpoena Unnecessary with us," he said, and the net result was the committee went ahead with the subpoena, which I think was unnecessary under the circumstances."

Last Feb. 25, the committee asked for tapes of conversations between Mr. Nixon and various aides during February, March and April, 1973. At that time, according to the sworn testimony of some participants, the President was being told by his aides about White House involvement in the Watergate cover-up.

The Vice President said he was not involved in further efforts to negotiate an agreement between the White House and the committee.

"I think everything is status quo," he said. In the meantime, it is my judgment that the White House will carry on as they had promised and will deliver according to their response the material that they had been requested. [to produce]."

The Vice President and his



United Press International

EASTER PRESENT: President Nixon receiving a purple egg on which was written "Happy Easter" from Martha Hutcheson, 10. Mr. Nixon had just left Community Church on Key Biscayne after an Easter Service. His wife, daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Finch Cox, and his friend, Charles G. Rebozo, accompanied him. Mr. Nixon arrived in Florida on Friday.

wife arrived here shortly after midnight. They are staying at the 250-acre estate of Walter H. Annenberg, the United States Ambassador to Britain. Mr. Ford and members of

his staff attended Easter services this morning at the Palm Desert Community Church. Mrs. Ford, who is recuperating from a foot operation, did not attend.