

Ford Is 'Disappointed' by Transcripts

By MARJORIE HUNTER
Special to The New York Times

MYRTLE BEACH, S. C., May 3—Vice President Ford said today that the President Nixon of the recently released transcripts of White House conversations was not the friend he had known for 25 years.

While continuing to say that he still feels the President is innocent of any wrongdoing in the Watergate break-in or its subsequent cover-up, the Vice President said that he could not help but be "a little disappointed" by the transcripts.

Mr. Ford, asked at a news conference here tonight "Is this the President you have known for 25 years?" replied:

"The answer is no. I've known the President in many circumstances. I've known him in all kinds of situations, political, social, etc. The President was in the company of a group different from any that I have known, ever been associated with.

'A Different Atmosphere'

"It seems to me he spoke more frankly than in any associations I've had. It's a little different atmosphere. But, of course, the problems they were facing was a little different from any I've participated in.

"Politically, I've been in a rally or a meeting where the discussions were on political matters, talking about what we could do to get something enacted."

Mr. Ford said that he had "read or scanned in some depth" all of the transcripts provided the House Judiciary Committee by the White House this week.

In response to questions, he said that he had found the transcripts to contain "pretty strong language." Asked if he was concerned by anything that he had read in the transcripts, he replied:

"Yes, I would be less than honest if I didn't say some of the language was pretty harsh, some of the talk was a bit disappointing. I come away with certain conclusions."

He said that one of those conclusions was that John W.

Dean 3d was "a real conniver, sort of trying to cuddle up to the boss, so to speak."

Earlier today in a speech in Columbia, S. C., Mr. Ford expressed concern over what he termed "difficult days for the legal profession."

In Columbia to dedicate the new law building at the University of South Carolina, he avoided any mention of the Watergate scandals or impeachment proceedings involving Mr. Nixon.

But he appeared to allude to the Watergate affair—which has led to the indictment or conviction of Administration figures, many of them lawyers—when he said:

"Our institutions, like many other American institutions today, are under unprecedented attack. Lawyers are accused of crimes. Prosecutors and police are accused of running roughshod over individual rights. And the courts are often charged with aggravating the crime problem through lenient sentences and endless backlogs of cases."

In a luncheon address to about 800 people, Mr. Ford said that he was attracted to a number of proposals for sim-

plifying and reducing the Federal, state and local court dockets.

He said that state no-fault insurance and no-fault divorce laws "deserve serious consideration." He said that voluntary arbitration in small civil cases "deserves more scrutiny."

While conceding that many Americans had lost respect for government institutions and the legal profession, he declared, "The honor and trust reposed in the legal profession is still profound, whether we are in government, in private practice, in business or in legal aid programs for the public."

As Mr. Ford spoke, a small group of chanting demonstrators paraded outside carrying anti-Nixon signs, including one saying: "Put Nixon in his place: Attica."

The Vice President will deliver the commencement address tomorrow at his alma mater, the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor.

Pub Owner Misses His Dog

WODDSEAVES, England (UPI)—Alan Bird has offered a free pint of beer a day for life at his pub to anyone finding his missing Labrador dog.