

Ford: No Sainthood From Tapes

ANN ARBOR, Mich., May 4 (UPI)—Vice President Ford said today the transcripts of President Nixon's Watergate tapes "do not exactly confer sainthood on anyone concerned."

The Vice President said he is proud "to be a citizen of a country which can openly debate the legal and moral fitness of its highest government leaders without riot or revolution, without reprisals or repression."

"I cannot imagine any other country in the world where the opposition would seek, and the chief executive would allow, the dissemination of his most private conversations with his staff which, to be honest, do not exactly confer sainthood on anyone concerned," Ford said in a commencement address at the University of Michigan, his alma mater.

He said he could not understand how anyone could criticize the President for taking his case to the people unless what the critics really wanted was to negate the verdict of the people.

An estimated two or three dozen demonstrators with signs were scattered among the audience and shouted cat-calls as Ford stepped to the podium to deliver his address.

He acknowledged the hecklers as engaging in "a safe form of photogenic streaking for those who have nothing more to expose than their minds."

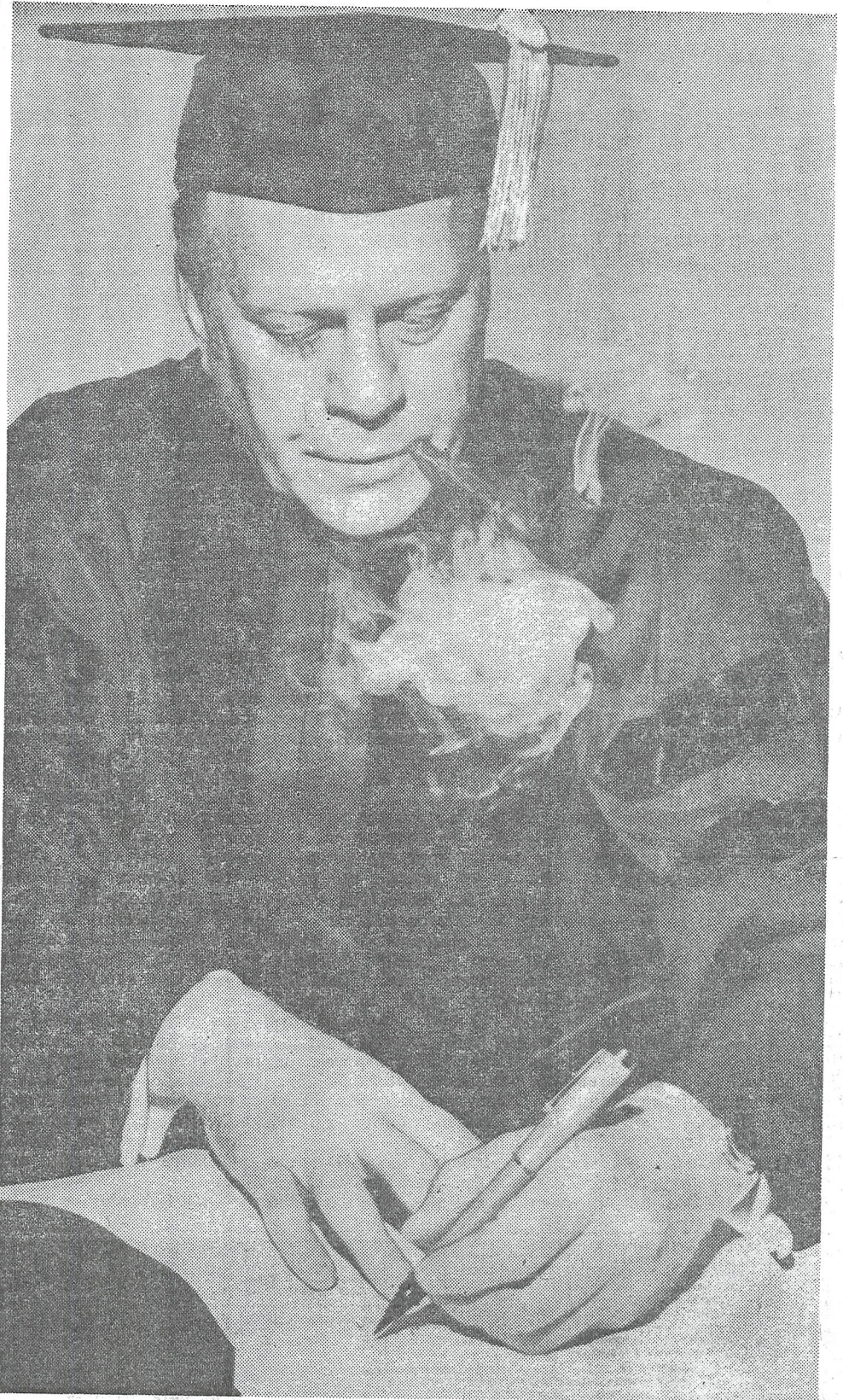
About 75 demonstrators chanted "Ford has the same idea. Impeachment is not enough" outside the arena before the Vice President's arrival.

[Nothing that one sign read: "Jerry Ford is a neo-fascist," the Vice President said, "I don't know much about neo-fascism." He said that when he graduated, he and fellow students "were beginning to worry about some real fascists in Adolf Hitler and his allies in Europe and Asia," the Associated Press reported.

[Ford, who served in the Navy during World War II, said, "If Jerry Ford is a neo-fascist, I guess we tamed those old fascists fairly well."]

Ford was presented an honorary doctor of laws degree and an accompanying citation said:

"While it would be a highly inappropriate conjecture for us to postulate any future inclinations for him, it is certainly quite proper for us to indulge in a healthy sense of



Associated Press

Vice President Ford makes last-minute changes in his speech at Ann Arbor.

confidence in his ability to serve in any position to which he may be called."

WXPost MAY 5 1974 Immunity for Witnesses Opposed by Hutchinson

United Press International
The senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee says he will oppose any effort to grant immunity to witnesses at the impeachment hearings, even if it means many major Watergate figures may not be heard.

"The doctrine of immunity should not be used," Rep. Edward Hutchinson of Michigan said in an interview.

Since the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution guarantees protection from self-incrimination, more than a dozen prospective key witnesses would be lost to the committee if Hutchinson prevails.

The committee has not yet decided whom to call, but the prospective witnesses could include almost all of those who could implicate or clear Presi-

dent Nixon of knowledge of and participation in the Watergate cover-up and several other impeachment allegations.

They include his former aides, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who are under indictment in connection with the Watergate cover-up.