



UPI Telephoto

Senator Sam Ervin rested his head in his hands as he listened to Vice President Ford speak in Raleigh, N.C.

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**Ford Says
 'It's Not
 Serious'**

Raleigh, N.C.

Vice President Gerald R. Ford said yesterday he does not consider the Watergate grand jury's decision to name President Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Watergate coverup "as anything of a serious nature."

Ford, in Raleigh for a commencement speech, told a news conference that even if the grand jury had indicted the President, that would not mean he was guilty.

Ford said he still believes the President is innocent.

On the speaker's stand in Ravenscroft School's concrete gymnasium were dignitaries including both of the state's senators, Senate Watergate Committee Chairman Sam Ervin Jr., a Democrat, and Republican Senator Jesse Helms.

The vice president said earlier in Savannah, Ga., that lawyers should set an example of morality and law and Ford was asked at the news conference if he thought that the President's being named by the grand jury and his refusal to turn tapes over to the House Judiciary Committee set such an example.

He did not answer directly, saying only that the President and his lawyer have the right to use any proper legal defense procedures.

Associated Press