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Ford Says Goldwater Didn't Mean It

Washington

President Ford yesterday gently chided Senator Barry Goldwater, a fellow Republican, for saying that former president Richard Nixon would do Americans a favor by staying in China and not returning to the United States.

"I don't think that that comment was one that Senator Goldwater would make if he had thought about it," the President said in an interview.

Mr. Nixon returned home Sunday after a visit to China that aroused serious concern in the White House and among the President's election campaign officials.

The President, noting that Mr. Nixon visited China as a private citizen, said: "I think every American citizen has a right to a visit such as that, and if they want to come back they certainly ought to have the right to come back to the United States."

Reuters