

# Watergate probers

## to exonerate Ford

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WASHINGTON — The Watergate special prosecutor has found no basis for criminal charges against President Ford and will drop his investigation of campaign financing in Ford's home county, sources familiar with the probe say.

A Justice Department source said Watergate prosecutor Charles Ruff will clear the President in a report to be made public within several days.

A source within the FBI added that the FBI has completed its investigation for Ruff and found no basis for prosecution.

Ruff has remained silent about the investigation, declining even to acknowledge its existence.

However, he has subpoenaed

documents from the Republican committee in Kent County, Mich., the President's home county, and from a maritime union that has been a big contributor to Ford's campaigns for Congress.

Sources have said Ruff is seeking to determine if any money was converted illegally to Ford's personal use.

The special prosecutor's investigation has cast a cloud over the Ford campaign since it was first reported.

Jimmy Carter challenged Ford to answer reporters' questions about it this week. Ford told a news conference a day later that he was confident that he would be cleared of any wrongdoing.