

Vice President Feels Judiciary Impeachment Bill a 'Possibility'

Ford Sees House Siding With

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By Carroll Kilpatrick
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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 13—Vice President Ford said today after meeting with President Nixon that he is confident the House will not vote to impeach the President.

Ford said that there is a "possibility" the House Judiciary Committee will vote a bill of impeachment, but he said he felt "strongly" that the House will side with the President because the "preponderance of the evidence favors the President."

The Vice President charged that some Judiciary Committee members had reached conclusions "even before evidence was submitted."

Ford spoke Friday night in nearby Anaheim at a Republican fund-raising dinner where about 1,000 persons paid \$125 each to hear him.

After his meeting with the President, at which they discussed the economy, Ford cited Friday's stock market upturn as one indication of renewed confidence at the end of a week of more favorable economic news.

The President is firmly determined to use all available resources to fight inflation and build a stronger economy, Ford said. While they have met six times this week they have not once discussed Watergate or impeachment, the Vice President said.

But his analysis of the com-

mittee and House prospects parallels views expressed earlier at the White House as representing the President's thinking.

Ford demonstrated his independence of the White House today, however, in a meeting with reporters. They had been promised a press conference with him and all arrangements had been made for it on the lawn outside the President's office.

Just before Ford appeared, however, Paul Miltich, the Vice President's press secretary, announced that questions would be limited to matters the President and Vice President had discussed this morning.

When Ford was asked why the restrictions had been placed on questions, he said he did not know there were any. He added that with the permission of "Mr. Ziegler and Mr. Miltich" he would answer any questions.

Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler won in the end, however. After nervously watching the performance about 15 minutes, he whispered to Miltich to end the conference, which Miltich promptly did.

But before the questions were cut off, Ford had taken several questions on delicate issues and at one point had made it clear he thought the President should abide by any Supreme Court decision regarding the special prosecutor's subpoena of additional tape recordings.

Ford said he had not dis-

cussed the pending Supreme Court decision with the President but that he assumed that any citizen would abide by the high court's ruling. White House spokesmen have studiously avoided committing Mr. Nixon on that point.

The only comment Ford

would make on the conviction Friday of former presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman was that "the jury has carried out its constitutional responsibility." He said he would not comment further since the matter is still before the courts.

White House spokesmen likewise declined further comment. (When former Attorney

Nixon

General John N. Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans were acquitted of conspiracy and obstruction of justice last April in a case involving a \$200,000 secret campaign contribution from financier Robert L. Vesco, the White House said, "The President is very pleased for the two men and their families.")