

Ford Says Douglas No Longer Target For Impeachment

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Vice President-designate Gerald R. Ford said yesterday he no longer thinks Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas should be impeached, because he has stopped some of the activities Ford criticized in 1970.

Ford's attempt to remove Douglas from office has produced most of the critical questioning at his confirmation hearings before the House Judiciary Committee. Ford was questioned for the third day yesterday and is to return Monday, despite repeated Republican complaints of undue delay in filling the office vacated by Spiro T. Agnew, under fire for tax evasion.

Ford said he now has no complaint against Douglas, because the justice has given up his \$12,000-a-year post as president of the Parvin Foundation, has stopped voting in cases where he has a conflict of interest (as Ford said existed in an obscenity case involving a publisher who had published some of Douglas' writings), and has stopped having his writings published in a magazine Ford said contained pornographic photographs.

Ford conceded under

questioning by Rep. Jerome Waldie (D-Calif.) that, when he was conducting his personal inquiry of Douglas about four years ago, the Justice Department gave him some leads on areas of investigation that might prove fruitful.

This brought protests from several Democrats who said the Justice Department had refused to cooperate with the Judiciary Committee when it conducted an inquiry of Douglas under prodding from Ford and other members.

Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) has protested repeatedly during the hearings and has refused to question Ford because the Justice Department will let only eight of the 38 committee members read the 1,700-page file the FBI has compiled on Ford.

"I may have to go to court," Conyers said yesterday, in an effort to get access to the file. He said the committee should not permit creation of a precedent that the Justice Department could deny access to information to members of a committee who must pass on a nomination.

In other developments at

yesterday's hearing:

- Ford said he favors constitutional amendments to permit school prayers, to forbid school busing for racial integration and to let states decide whether abortions should be permitted.

- Ford conceded that through "inadvertent error" he had used some classified information in the book "Portrait of an Assassin," which he co-authored as a member of the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy. Ford said he had believed the passage he used was to be declassified. The passage quoted Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen Dulles as saying that Gary Powers, the U-2 spy plane pilot shot down over the Soviet Union 15 years ago, was a CIA employee. Ford said he considered this public knowledge.

- Ford admitted to one mistake in public life—letting Robert Winter-Berger into his office. Ford called an "understatement" a description of Winter-Berger as "malicious." The lobbyist wrote a book which said, among other things, that Ford had undergone medical treatment for nervous stress. Ford and the doctor involved have denied the statement.