

Comment on Supreme Court Action

Ford Sees No New Setback for Nixon

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CONCORD, N.H., May 31 — Vice President Ford said today that President Nixon did not suffer a setback by today's action of the U.S. Supreme Court, which agreed to hear arguments on a petition by Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski to obtain 64 tape recordings withheld by the President.

The Vice President was in New Hampshire to attend a \$25-a-plate Republican fundraising buffet in Manchester. He made his remarks at

a news conference at the state house here.

Ford denied that the President was using delaying tactics when his counsel sought to have the ruling of U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica reviewed by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals before it was presented to the Supreme Court.

"I believe that the President has the right to exercise whatever legal rights he has in taking these matters to the Supreme Court," Ford said.

When the Vice President

arrived in Concord, he was greeted by a front-page editorial in the Manchester Union-Leader, the state's largest newspaper, signed by its publisher, ultraconservative William Loeb, saying, "Jerry is a Jerk."

Gov. Meldrim Thomson has consistently opposed Ford for not supporting the President more emphatically, but Thomson greeted the Vice President warmly and entertained him at the Executive mansion before accompanying him to the dinner in Manchester.