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Mich. Paper Chides Ford For Speech

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Jan. 21 (AP) — Vice President Ford's hometown newspaper urged him today "to put some distance between himself and Mr. Nixon on Watergate. . ."

In an editorial, The Grand Rapids Press said it was making its appeal to Ford because the Watergate scandal "is wrong. All that it symbolizes is an affront to the American people and their constitution."

The editorial referred to a speech Ford made last Monday in Atlantic City, N.J., in which the Vice President said, "A few extreme partisans seem bent on stretching out the ordeal of Watergate for their own purposes."

Ford mentioned Americans for Democratic Action and the AFL-CIO.

Today's Press editorial contended that "contrary to Mr. Ford's remarks . . . it is the halftruths and outright deceit of the White House—not insidious plots by the AFL-CIO or ADA—which have prolonged the Watergate agony."