

**ditor**  
NYTimes

JUL 9 1975

## Election '76: What Ford Told the Senators in '73

To the Editor:

The expected announcement by President Ford that he intends to become a candidate for the Presidency in 1976 will be an anticlimax for some reasons that are obvious and for one that no longer is obvious: A statement of intention disavowing the candidacy, made under oath during Mr. Ford's November 1973 confirmation hearings for the Vice-Presidency before the Senate Rules Committee.

The committee, acting for the first time under the 25th Amendment in appointing a man to the second-highest office in the land, which would very likely lead in this instance to the highest office, wanted to be assured that the appointee would not use the powerful leverage of an incumbent to preempt the normal democratic process for electing a President. So Mr. Ford was asked several times whether he meant to run for office in 1976.

The most pointed exchange occurred between Senator Allen and Mr. Ford and is quoted here for the meaning it may hold as a portent of "campaign promises" in general:

SENATOR ALLEN: "You have also said that you do not intend to run for President or Vice President in 1976. I am just wondering, though,

if in the ensuing three years the confidence of the public in the Administration is restored to the level of a year or two ago, if inflation has been checked and if a solution has been found to the energy crisis, and if we have peace throughout the world, if you might possibly be willing to reconsider your statement of intention."

MR. FORD: "Well, Senator Allen, humorously, if all those things take place, and since President Nixon could not run again, it sounds like you are writing a prescription for a landslide."

SENATOR ALLEN: "Do you think you might be subject to a draft?"

MR. FORD: "Well, the answer is still 'no.' I have no intention to run, and I can foresee no circumstances where I would change my mind. I have no intention of seeking public office in 1976." (Senate Hearings No. Y4. R88/2W75, page 114.)

Only nine days after becoming President, Mr. Ford informally repudiated this statement. Now he is on the verge of formally repudiating it.

SAUL ROZENZWEIG  
St. Louis, July 3, 1975

An editorial on this subject appears today.