

Ford was a Viet war hawk, good Nixonite, economizer

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WASHINGTON — Vice President-designate Gerald R. Ford has been a backer of a strong military stance, an economizer on domestic social programs, a Vietnam hawk, and above all a supporter of President Nixon's policies.

His House voting record has shown him solidly for giving the Defense Department what it asked for and for resisting limitations on the Southeast Asia military operations.

On such matters as poverty programs, child care, health services, minimum wages and educational aid, a frequent pattern has been to resist Democratic efforts to increase spending. He has supported Republican amendments to reduce it and voted for compromises.

Ford has voted for development of the supersonic transport, for loan guarantees to the Lockheed Corp., against repeal of state authority to ban union shops, for water pollution control standards, for the 18-year-old vote, for prayer in schools, and for popular election of the President.

On only two recent issues has he been at odds with Nixon. He voted last year to override a veto of a bill intended to encourage antipollution efforts and this year against a proposal to open the highway trust fund to use for urban mass transit system.

He has supported the Administration in floor speeches on issues ranging from Watergate to wage and price controls.

Ford usually has moved generally with the mainstream of House Republicans.

One of his more controver-

sial activities was his leadership in an effort in 1970 to have the House consider impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, an effort sure to come up at the hearings on his nomination.

In one speech of which he is likely to be reminded, he asked rhetorically "What, then, is an impeachable offense?"

He replied to himself, "The only honest answer is that an impeachable offense is whatever a majority of the House of Representatives considers it to be at a given moment in history."

Ford attacked Douglas' outside activities, including writing for publications Ford criticized, and serving as a paid officer of a private foundation.

"There is prima facie evidence that he was for nearly a decade the well-paid moonlighter for an organization whose ties to the international gambling fraternity never has been sufficiently explored," Ford said.

The House Judiciary Committee reported it found no grounds to proceed against Douglas. Ford charged whitewash.

In an unusually emotional speech after the House had adopted an amendment to halt the Cambodian bombing, Ford said "This is a very, very sad day in the House of Representatives

... "At no time in our history have we achieved results by standing still or backing off.

... It amazes me as well as disappoints me that the House of Representatives that has a track record of strength and firmness is now cringing and crumbling."

Opposing reduction of U.S. military manpower over-

seas, Ford said World War II developed "because this Congress in the decades of the 20s and 30s failed to understand that military strength is the best deterrent against any enemy aggression . . .

"I do not think it makes sense for us here on this occasion to pull the rug out from under a military alliance that has been successful."

Last August, when Nixon's economic policies were under heavy criticism, Ford defended them strongly: "Let me emphasize that our price and wage controls are working despite the fact they are limited in nature and that enforcement does not require a bureaucratic cracy."

He said "they are working because the facts show that the rate of inflation has greatly slackened during the nearly 12 months that controls have been in effect."

On May 1, after Nixon's Watergate speech, Ford told the House, "Whether the next 3½ years will be years of progress and prosperity or years of political recrimination and partisan power struggles now depends primarily on us, not the President. He has demonstrated he is a big enough man to shoulder his responsibilities and press forward and we should do the same."

And, after former presidential aide John Ehrlichman had been called before the Watergate investigating committee for tense days of testimony, Ford said:

"I personally know and I personally respect John Ehrlichman. He is a good friend and I am proud of that relationship. I think it is premature to make any judgment at this time on his