

No psychiatry, says Ford

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WASHINGTON — Vice Presidential Nominee Gerald R. Ford has denied as "categorically inaccurate" a report in a book that he received psychiatric treatment for at least a year.

He also gave his version of a published report that he helped get G. Gordon Liddy, later convicted as a Watergate conspirator, a White House job in 1968.

Meanwhile, the Senate Committee yesterday asked President Nixon to authorize an audit of Ford's income taxes for the past three years and for authority for the committee to examine the nominee's tax returns for the last seven years.

Chairman Howard W. Cannon Jr. (D-Nev.) said the rules committee probably will open hearings on the nomination around Oct. 30. He said he also has asked the General Accounting Office and Library of Congress for information on Ford and has requested Ford to submit a financial statement.

Newsmen asked the House GOP leader about a report

in a 1972 book, "Washington Pay-off" by Robert N. Winter-Berger, that he had been a patient of Dr. Arnold Hutschnecker of New York for "at least a year." The late columnist Drew Pearson claimed Hutschnecker gave psychiatric treatment to Richard M. Nixon.

Ford said Winter-Berger did once ask him to pay a "courtesy call" on Hutschnecker.

"I thought he (Winter-Berger) wanted to impress Hutschnecker with people he knew in Washington, and when I was in New York on a speaking engagement I dropped into his office and met him," Ford said. "We talked about 15 minutes and that was all. The claim that

I was a patient is categorically inaccurate. I don't even recall what our conversation was about. It was a courtesy call, that's all."

In New York, Hutschnecker told a reporter he had never treated Ford — "the allegation is totally untrue and only in the wild imagination of the writer." Hutschnecker said he was acquainted with Winter-Berger.

"I had the unfortunate luck to meet him at a dinner party about seven or eight years ago," he said.

Ford said he became acquainted with Liddy in 1966 when Liddy was a Conservative Party candidate for Congress in New York State

and Ford went there to speak on behalf of Rep. Hamilton Fish (R-N.Y.). He said Liddy ran again in 1968, and Ford again went to Fish's district.

Ford said local Republicans asked him to find a job for Liddy in Washington in return for which Liddy would not campaign actively against Fish.

He said he called Eugene Rossides, then in charge of the White House "talent office" and now assistant secretary of the treasury, and told him Liddy was an ex-FBI agent available for a job.

"That was the last I heard about it until I found out later that he had been hired," Ford said.