

# Ford Denies a Story of Psychiatric Treatment

## Washington

Vice president-designate Gerald R. Ford says the story published in a Washington lobbyist's book that he underwent psychiatric treatment for a year is a "categorical inaccuracy."

The psychiatrist agrees, claiming the story is "sheer fantasy."

But Ford confirmed another story Tuesday: that he helped Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy get a Treasury job as a political favor to a GOP congressional candidate.

The claim that Ford received psychiatric treatment for a year from Dr. Arnold Hutschnecker in New York city was made by free-lance lobbyist Robert N. Winter-Berger in his book, "The Washington Pay-Off."

The House Republican leader told newsmen he went to Hutschnecker only once for about 15 minutes to meet him, not get treatment, at Winter-Berger's insistence.

"He (Winter-Berger) ex-

tolled Hutschnecker's virtues as an eminent doctor and said I should meet him," Ford said.

Hutschnecker backed Ford's account.

"He never came here as a patient in the first place," the psychiatrist said. "This is sheer fantasy."

Ford said Winter-Berger originally was introduced to him by two longtime friends from his college days.

Ford said the lobbyist visited him in his office about once every three months.

The Republican leader said he helped get Liddy the Treasury job in Washington, at the request of GOP congressional candidate Hamilton Fish Jr. of New York and local Republicans of New York, to keep Liddy from running against Fish in 1968.

Ford told newsmen: "I said, 'Ham, he's not my constituent, he's yours. It's your responsibility. But I'll make a phone call.'"

The Republican leader said he called Eugene T. Rossides, then assistant secretary of the Treasury for

trade, and Liddy subsequently got the Treasury job.

Liddy later was hired for the White House "plumbers" unit that has been implicated in the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. He later became counsel for President Nixon's re-election finance committee.

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