

# Ford Defends His Stand On Civil Rights Measures

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 16—Gerald R. Ford defended his civil rights record today, declaring that every American is entitled to equal treatment.

"I've lived that, I believe that, I insist on that," he told the House Judiciary Committee as he underwent a second day of close questioning on his fitness to be Vice President.

Accusations that Mr. Ford attempted to cripple key civil rights bills with amendments were the subject of attacks by spokesmen for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Americans for Democratic Action at Senate hearings earlier this week.

His defense today of his civil rights record was greeted somewhat skeptically by Representative Barbara C. Jordan, a black Democrat from Texas. She recalled that Mr. Ford had once said in a speech, "In politics, when the train is moving, you'd better jump on because you don't get a second chance."

## Defends His Votes

Would it be fair, she asked, to characterize his voting record on civil rights as "trying to stall the train as long as you can and then jumping on when you knew it will keep going no matter what you do?"

Mr. Ford smiled, but said, "I strongly disagree. His votes on amendments, he insisted, came only because "I thought that was the right thing to do at the time."

His defense of his views on civil rights came in response to close questioning on this issue and on a broad range of other matters, including his personal and political finances, by a committee obviously intent on proving that it was not examining lightly a man from the House's own ranks.

Uppermost in many minds,

too, appeared to be what kind of President he would make if President Nixon did not serve out his term.

This question was expressed openly by Representative George E. Danielson, Democrat of California, as he ended a series of pointed questions on whether Mr. Ford had had previous knowledge of various Watergate-related and campaign matters involving Nixon Administration officials and aides.

"I'm thinking you're going to be President within a year," Mr. Danielson said quietly. His words created a stir in the crowded hearing room.

## Prior Knowledge Denied

Mr. Ford denied any prior knowledge or involvement in campaign "dirty tricks," the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation's promised contribution to the Republicans, the office burglary of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist and other matters that have cast a cloud over the White House.

Insisting, too, that his own campaign practices had been completely above board, he added: "In fact, I'd planned to run for Congress just one more time, and I'd just about decided I wouldn't spend a cent next time. My staff didn't think that was a very good idea."

Committee members also delved deeply into his personal finances, including a tax deduction that he took for clothes purchased for his trip to Communist China last year.

Mr. Ford explained, in some detail, that he had purchased about a dozen short-sleeved shirts, something he otherwise never wore, "because of the hot Chinese summer," and that his wife had to purchase a number of pairs of walking shoes because she seldom did any extensive walking at home.



United Press International  
Vice President-designate  
Gerald R. Ford at House  
hearing yesterday.

The purchases, he said, were gone into and approved as a legitimate business expense by the Internal Revenue Service because the China trip was official travel requested by the President.

In reply to questions, Mr. Ford said that he had established no trusts and had not transferred any of his property to his children or other relatives for his eventual use.

He also said that he did not feel that lying under oath was justifiable, even in the case of national security; that it would be better for a President to remain silent when he felt it unwise to tell the truth, such as in a national security matter.