

Demos Demand Report on Ford

Washington

House Judiciary Committee Democrats demanded yesterday that chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (Dem-N.J.) use his one-man subpoena power to force release of an FBI investigative report on vice presidential nominee Gerald R. Ford.

Ford, the House Republican leader who was returning for a third day of questioning by the panel, agreed that all members of the committee should have access to the file which acting attorney general Robert Bork ruled could be seen only by eight of the 38 members on the committee.

Rodino, earlier given sole subpoena power for the duration of the Ford hearings, promised to consider the demand.

The issue arose after Rodino read to the committee a letter from Bork rejecting a request from Representative John Conyers Jr. (Dem-Mich.) that at least he, if not the rest of the members, have access to the report.

Bork wrote, "If I make an exception to our agreement (for only eight members to see it) then I could not refuse making an exception to other committees of Congress who may want to see FBI files."

Members who read the report said they found nothing adverse to Ford in it and nothing that would require additional questioning. But Conyers, who has opposed taking up the Ford nomination before the committee acts on impeachment resolu-

tions against President Nixon, said each member should be able to make that decision.

Renewed committee questioning of Ford centered on his present staff and the type of people he would hire if confirmed, and Ford's renewed denial that he knew anything about activities of the Committee to re-elect the President.

Representative Barbara Jordan (Dem-Tex.) said attorney Benton L. Becker, who has volunteered to help Ford in his nomination hearings, "is a man whose credibility has been questioned by many members of this committee."

Becker testified Tuesday that he was hired by Representative Joe D. Waggoner Jr., (Dem-La.) in May, 1970, to help Waggoner, Ford and Representative Louis C. Wyman (Rep-N.H.), research the possibility of impeaching Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

Ford voluntarily turned over letters in his file that showed Becker wrote to attorney William O. Bittman in September, 1970, asking whether financier Louis Wolfson, Bittman's client, had information about Douglas that would be helpful in his research.

Bittman testified that Wolfson could offer no information on Douglas and he rejected a question by Representative Jerome Waldie, (Dem-Calif.) whether he interpreted the letter as "influence peddling."

United Press



AP Wirephoto

REP. FORD WITH EVERGREEN REVIEW
 He described the magazine as obscene

1970 Drive

Ford Talks of Furor on Douglas

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Vice presidential nominee Gerald R. Ford acknowledged yesterday that the Justice Department provided him written tips on what to look for in his effort to impeach Justice William O. Douglas in 1970.

Ford also said during confirmation hearings before the House Judiciary Committee that he had since changed his mind and no longer favored impeachment of Douglas because the justice had since corrected many of his faults.

Ford displayed a series of pictures of nude women in "erotic positions" in the issue of Evergreen Review for which Douglas had written an article. The question of Douglas writing for the magazine had been an issue in Ford's impeachment drive.

Ford's apparent purpose was to show that Douglas' article appeared directly after the series of nude pictures, but Representatives Jerome Waldie, (Dem-Calif.), and John F. Seiberling (Dem-Ohio), chided Ford for displaying the pictures before television cameras.

"It seems to me to be such an incredibly insensitive thing to do," Waldie said.

Seiberling called Ford's display "unseemly for a nominee for vice president."

After protesting that he had pointed the magazine only toward the committee, Ford sat silently during the criticism.

The photos, seen by reporters sitting about 20 feet away to Ford's left, appeared to be a five-page spread of nude women in various poses. Nude men appeared in some of the pictures.

Ford, in answer to questions from Waldie, said he had sought help from then Attorney General John Mitchell and had talked with then White House aide Clark Mollenhoff about the Douglas impeachment drive.

He said Mitchell later sent Will Wilson, then assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division, to give Ford a list of broad areas to review in investigating Douglas. The tips were written on plain sheets of paper without a Justice Department letterhead, he said.

He received "little or no help from the department of Justice after that," Ford said.

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