

Senate Ready to Vote on Ford Nomination Today

Washington

Gerald Ford's nomination as vice president moved forward in both houses yesterday as the House Judiciary Committee ended six days of hearings and the Senate prepared to vote on his confirmation today.

The House committee plans to vote on the nomination Thursday and the full house by not later than December 6. Approval by overwhelming majorities in both houses is assured, though some votes will be cast against him.

Senate debate opened yesterday with one known vote against — Senator William Hathaway (Dem-Me.). Hathaway supports legislation for a popular election when both offices of president and vice president become vacant, and wants Ford's confirmation delayed until the question of whether President Nixon will be impeached is settled.

Senator Thomas Eagleton (Dem-Mo.) has told associates he may oppose Ford on the grounds that Mr. Nixon may be removed from office and that his successor should be a brainy quarter-back-type rather than a line-



SENATOR HATHAWAY
A vote against

man-type like Ford.

From comments at the hearings or conversations with newsmen it appeared that six or more liberal Democrats on the 38-member House Judiciary Committee may vote against Ford. But one of them, Representative John Seiberling (Dem-Ohio), said he will vote to send the nomination to the house, even though he may not vote for Ford there, because he feels an issue of such importance should be decided by the full House. Opposition on the House committee in-

cludes feelings that Ford has opposed civil rights legislation, lacks presidential qualities or that his confirmation should be delayed until the impeachment issue is settled.

Ford, the House Republican leader, was nominated Oct. 12 after Spiro Agnew resigned and was fined for tax evasion.

The Senate Rules Committee approved the Ford nomination by a 9-to-0 vote last week. Senate floor debate began with Claiborne Pell (Dem-R.I.), second-ranking Democrat on the Rules Committee calling Ford "a man of integrity, character and probity."

Warm support for Ford also came from Senator Alan Cranston (Dem-Calif.), who said he had interviewed hundreds of people from his home state and other areas on Ford and concluded that Ford had overwhelming public support and confidence.

So certain is Ford's approval by the Senate today that only one hour has been set aside for debate before the 1:30 p.m. (PST) vote.

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