

Ford Warns His Party

There are a number of items of evidence that have reportedly led the joint committee staff to the conclusion that no deed turning over the pre-presidential papers was ever executed before the effective date of the change in the law that denied deductions for gifts of such papers. The cutoff date was July 25, 1969.

DeMarco has testified that he had his secretary retype the original deed, dated March 27, 1969, because the paper and the style of the original deed were different from those of accompanying documents. Once the new copy of the deed was made, in April of the following year, the old one was destroyed, in conformity with his firm's practice on documents that had been replaced, he said.

However, DeMarco also testified that he learned in November, 1969, that Congress was apparently on its way to enacting legislation that would cut off deductions for gifts of papers as of the previous July 25.

Thus, the investigators point out, he testified in effect that he destroyed the original March, 1969, deed, just because he thought it looked unprofessional, even though he had learned that evidence that the gift was made before July 25, 1969, might become important.

Committee investigators have also questioned why DeMarco, by his own testimony, asked an accountant in May, 1969 — two months after the alleged execution of the original deed — what the maximum permissible deduction would be for a gift of papers for someone with Mr. Nixon's income. Such deductions are limited to a certain percentage of the donor's income.

New York Times

Atlantic City

Vice President Gerald Ford warned Saturday that the Republican party could be in "deep trouble" across the country as a result of the Watergate scandal.

Ford said that the loss of anywhere from 50 to 100 seats in this year's congressional elections "was not impossible." He said such losses would be "disastrous for our party," comparing the party's prospects to the setbacks suffered by the Republicans in 1964.

Speaking to Republican fund-raisers at a cocktail party in Millburn, an Essex county suburb, Ford said: "I don't like Watergate, and you don't like it either."

Ford's remarks were regarded as the most pessimistic he had made of the party's chances since he

was nominated Vice President by President Nixon.

However, he was applauded twice when he mentioned the President's success in foreign affairs.

New York Times