

A Rousing Ford Speech For Nixon

Detroit

Vice president Gerald R. Ford delivered a staunch defense of president Nixon last night, saying he is convinced of the president's innocence of any charges made against him.

In a speech to a young republican rally, Ford said, "none of the evidence with which I am familiar in any way undercuts the president.

"On the basis of the evidence I have seen and I have heard, I am convinced he is innocent of any of the charges made against him."

The vice president also said that Mr. Nixon is "in the best of health, mentally and physically," and will continue in office to the end of his term.

Ford spoke at a campaign dinner on behalf of Representative Robert J. Shuber (Rep.-Mich.). He was the curtain-raiser to the biggest republican road show in Michigan since the 1972 presidential election: Mr. Nixon is due in Michigan today.

Ford said Mr. Nixon was successful in foreign policy; and forward-looking in domestic policy.

He said no president had done more than Mr. Nixon "to achieve and maintain peace."

Associated Press
