

Nixon Suggests Ford Curtail Speeches

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BUFFALO, May 10—Vice President Ford, expressing full support for President Nixon after the two met earlier today, added that the President had suggested that Mr. Ford curtail his speaking appearances because the Vice President was "working too hard."

Mr. Ford said that Mr. Nixon had made it clear that he had no intention of resigning.

The one-hour meeting at the White House, just before Mr. Ford flew here about noon, came just a day after the Vice President leveled implied criticism of Mr. Nixon's role in "the sorry mess labeled as Watergate."

Mr. Ford said that the President, during their meeting this morning, had not expressed unhappiness about the Vice President's speech yesterday in

Illinois.

"There was no indication of any displeasure on the part of the President in the role I have played," Mr. Ford said. "As a matter of fact, the President was mostly concerned about the fact that I was working too hard at the job.

"Therefore, he cautioned me to be a little less on the road and not work so hard on behalf of candidates of the party and speaking to the public generally."

Mr. Ford said that their "rapport" during the meeting "was as good as it's ever been, and it's always been very good."

The Vice President appeared relaxed, in no way reflecting rumors spreading through Washington that Mr. Nixon might resign at any moment, making way for Mr. Ford to become President.

Mr. Ford laughed loudly, along with the rest of the audience, at a luncheon meeting here in which Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan mistakenly referred to him as "the President, or rather, the Vice President."

After correcting his mistake, Mr. Brennan grinned and added: "I guess I'll be hearing a lot more about this."

The conversation between the President and the Vice President, the first such exten-

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

sive meeting in many weeks, came at a time of escalating demands by key Republicans that Mr. Nixon either resign or consider resigning.

While Mr. Ford has not joined the chorus of calls for resignation, he expressed deep concern in his speech yesterday in Chicago over what he termed a "grave situation" created by the Watergate affair.

His Illinois speech was widely interpreted as harsh criticism of the Administration and of the President's handling of the Watergate matter.

Today, however, after his meeting with Mr. Nixon, the Vice President indicated that they have no disagreements in any areas. He again expressed the opinion that Mr. Nixon will not be impeached and denied emphatically, through a spokesman, reports that he had placed his staff on "red alert," presumably to be ready for him to assume the Presidency.

Mr. Ford spoke only generally of the topics covered dur-

ing the White House meeting, declining to answer specific questions about the exact nature of conversations.

"I'm not at liberty to give you the details of what the President said to me or I said to the President," Mr. Ford said.

He said they "covered a great many subjects, some very important foreign policy matters, some of the problems before the Congress, both the House and the Senate."

Impeachment on Agenda

He said that they also talked about impeachment proceedings now under way in the House Judiciary Committee, such as procedures to be followed and the White House role in the inquiry.

Asked what areas of foreign policy were discussed, Mr. Ford replied:

"We talked about the role of Henry Kissinger [the Secretary of State], which is a very critical and crucial one. I'm not at liberty to discuss the details of that discussion but it was a discussion in depth in that critical area."

Dr. Kissinger is now in the Middle East, trying to arrange a disengagement of forces between Israel and Syria.

Asked if Mr. Nixon had expressed concern over growing demands for his resignation by party leaders and anti-Nixon editorials by such newspapers as the usually conservative Chicago Tribune, Mr. Ford replied: "We did not get into those subjects."

Asked if he now supported the President as strongly as he did when Mr. Nixon named him as Vice President last fall, Mr. Ford replied: "I think the answer is yes."

The Vice President spoke here this afternoon at a Building Trades Council luncheon honoring the Secretary of Labor and Representative Jack F. Kemp, Republican from this district.

Tonight, he spoke again at a fund-raising dinner for Mr. Kemp before flying to Texas for a commencement address tomorrow at Texas A. & M. University.



Associated Press

Vice President Ford replying to question about the President in Buffalo.

Continued on Page 15, Column 2