

Ford calls Nixon innocent

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Vice President Ford revealed yesterday that his talk Friday with President Nixon was arranged after news reports of his speech attacking the administration. He then repeated his beliefs that Nixon is innocent of wrongdoing in Watergate and will not resign.

Speaking at a Republican rally, Ford said, "I am con-

vinced that President Nixon knew nothing of the plan to break in (to the Watergate) and had nothing to do with it. And in my opinion, he had nothing to do with the cover-up."

Ford told his Republican audience he fears a "legislative dictatorship" if Democrats obtain overwhelming congressional strength in this fall's elections.