

Nixon Stand on Tapes

-- New Warning By Ford

Washington

Vice President Gerald R. Ford said last night that President Nixon's refusal to give any further evidence to the House Judiciary Committee "could be" the thing that will bring about House impeachment of Mr. Nixon.

"It seems to me that a stonewall attitude isn't nec-

essarily the wisest policy," Ford said in an interview with ABC correspondent Bill Zimmerman.

The interview was filmed Thursday night a few hours after Ford met at the White House with Mr. Nixon and shown on last night's "ABC Evening News."

It indicated accentuated

disagreement between Ford and the White House on dealings with the House Judiciary Committee.

On Wednesday, Mr. Nixon told the committee he will provide no further Watergate evidence. That night in Wilmington, Del., Ford said he hopes Mr. Nixon will give them any additional relevant evidence "the sooner the better."

Ford was asked in the ABC interview if, in view of his assessment that the House situation on impeachment is very close, the White House attitude would be the thing to turn it against the President.

"It could be, and I think it would be unfortunate," the vice president said.

"I want the House of Representatives to make its judgment on the facts, not on some emotional, institutional issue," he added.

"For that reason," Ford went on, "I would hope, if we get down to the final crunch, that the White House would be cooperative if there was relevant information tapes or transcripts or otherwise that would be helpful in avoiding a head-to-head confrontation."

Asked if he thought there is still some reason for thinking there could be a compromise, Ford replied, "At this point I don't think I'm in a position to give you any authoritative answer.

"I can only say that, in my judgment, that would be a better procedure," he said.

Earlier yesterday, as Ford was leaving Lansing, Mich., after a speech to the Michigan legislature, he declined again to give any specifics about his 45-minute meeting Thursday with Mr. Nixon, saying, "We talked in the same vein and the same subjects as we have in the past."

"I'm not at liberty to talk about the contents," Ford said.

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