

A New Stand

Ford Changes Watergate Tune

Birmingham, Ala.

Vice President Gerald Ford, in an apparent shift of views, said here last night that President Nixon's attitude in resisting House committee demands for additional material "is proper" at this time.

He said that until the House Judiciary Committee opens its impeachment inquiry to the public, analyzes material it already has on hand and hears potential witnesses, "I can understand the attitude of the White House."

In recent days, the vice president had criticized the President's decision of last week to deny the committee any further tapes or other materials. He said last

Thursday night, for example, that the White House should supply requested material "and the sooner the better."

The vice president also said late last week that the White House's "stonewall attitude" was not politically wise and that it could increase chances for impeachment of the President.

But last night, at a news conference here, Ford sharply modified his earlier stand.

"I will keep pressing the committee to open up their hearings," he said. "I will keep pressing them to call these witnesses. Until they have done that, I think the President's attitude is proper."

Pressed for some clarification of this apparent shift on his part, the vice president said:

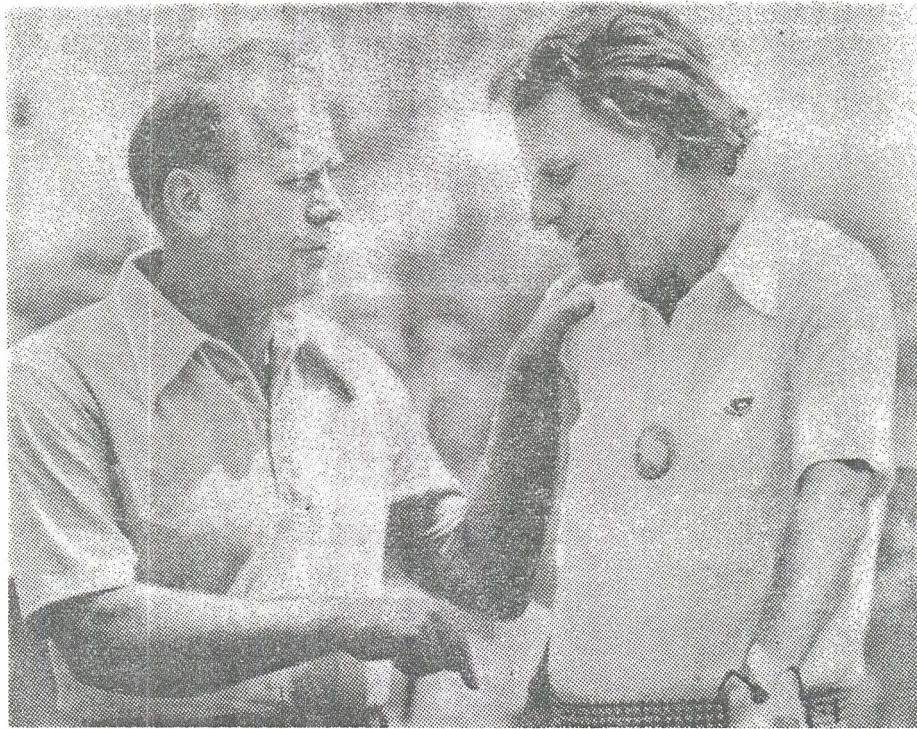
"I'm saying until they have concluded what I think is responsible committee procedure — after all, they have lots of material, they've got some potential witnesses that probably ought to testify under oath — this is the responsible procedure. Until the committee acts with responsible actions, I can understand the attitude of the White

Alcoholism Bill

Hartford, Conn.

Governor Thomas J. Meskill signed yesterday a bill striking alcoholism and public drunkenness from Connecticut's criminal code and setting up alcoholism treatment programs throughout the state.

Associated Press



AP Wirephoto

GERALD FORD AND BILLY GRAHAM ON THE CHARLOTTE GOLF COURSE
They disagreed over Graham's remarks about the nation's 'moral compass'

House.

Earlier yesterday, in a news conference in Charlotte, N.C., Ford, disagreeing with Billy Graham, said that he does not believe that America has lost its "moral compass."

While reiterating his views that the transcripts of White House conversations on Watergate "do not confer sainthood on anybody," the vice president said he has faith "in the basic morality of the American people."

Graham, in a statement issued Tuesday, expressed his concern over the nation's loss of its "moral compass." Graham said that he could

not "but deplore the moral tone implied" in President Nixon's conversations with White House aides about the Watergate affair.

New York Times