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WATERGATE

Ford ignores pleas to 'sit down, shut up'

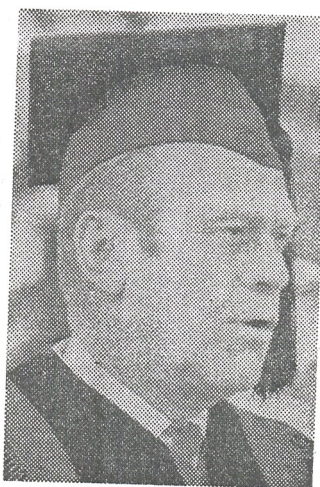
By Saul Friedman
Knight News Service

LOGAN (Utah) — Vice President Ford said yesterday that a lot of people are asking him to sit down and shut up like a good vice president should.

What people are worrying about, Ford said in a commencement address at Utah State University, is what has come to be known as his "zigzagging" on the question of the impeachment of President Nixon.

He said he has been urged in letters, telegrams, at receptions and even in shouts across hotel lobbies not to travel so much and hold so many press conferences.

He said he has been asked "if I must make speeches and permit press questions wherever I go, why do I uphold the President one day and the next day side with the Congress, which is delib-



Gerald Ford

erating his impeachment?"

He said the answer is that he believes it his duty to try to find a compromise on the nagging issue of Watergate.

"Why is it so surprising that I sometimes voice the

viewpoint of the legislative branch of which I was a part for a quarter century, and at other times see things much the same way the chief executive, who chose me, my friend for the same span of years?"

Privately Ford is bothered that the President, refusing to obey the subpoenas of the courts and Congress, has given Ford no room to conciliate.

Since his last meeting with the President in late May, when Ford failed to find an opening in the White House stone wall, the vice president has become more grim and pugnacious.

Lately, his zigging and zagging, which Ford tries to laugh off as "broken-field running," has begun to give him a reputation for merely being wishy-washy.