

A Passive Role for Ford

Reno

Vice President Gerald R. Ford emphasized yesterday that he does not intend to lobby aggressively among House members to vote against the President's impeachment — unless they solicit his views.

Ford said his position as vice president puts him in a "different situation" from his position as House minority leader with obligations to rally party support for Republican positions.

"I have indicated in the past, and I will reiterate now, that I am not going out as I used to when I was minority leader and affirmatively and aggressively try to convince members that

they ought to vote this way or that way. I think this is a different situation.

"I intend to, when the proper opportunity arises, to discuss with members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat, my views and why I hold them." But he did not elaborate on when this opportunity might come.

Ford's intention to take a back seat on anti-impeachment lobbying is underlined by his travel schedule, which will keep him on the go almost solidly through August. He is to be in the South, West Coast and Hawaii during this critical period.

The full House is tentatively due to start debate on impeachment August 15.

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