

SF Examiner
**Ford: 'I'd
vote for
censure'**

Examiner News Services

NEW ORLEANS — Vice President Ford said last night that if he were still a member of the House of Representatives he would vote to censure President Nixon.

"Censure is less serious and therefore if the alternative was presented and I were in the House, I would favor it," Ford said.

The Vice President added, however, that he is convinced the President is innocent in the Watergate affair.

Earlier, campaigning for Republican congressional candidates in Hattiesburg, Miss., Ford said the President's position appeared to have "eroded in the House. I think the odds are that he may be impeached."

He voiced the conditional support of a censure vote in

response to another question at a news conference.

"If I had my druthers, I'd rather have the House vote the facts as I see them and vote for acquittal," he replied. "But if you have no alternative to impeachment but censure, then I would favor censure."

A formal resolution to censure the President rather than impeach him was introduced in the House Friday and Republican leaders, including minority leader John Rhodes, joined a petition effort to allow them at least the alternative of voting for censure.