

Congress -- Ford's 'One of Ours'

Washington

Congressional leaders predicted last night that there would be an extended "honeymoon" for Congress and the White House.

Senators and representatives of both parties called Vice President Ford "one of ours"—a man who was a member of Congress himself this time last year—and they said they expected to work closely and productively with him.

The Speaker of the House, Representative Carl Albert

(Dem-Okla.) set the tone for other members of Congress when he issued the following statement last night:

"We all know Jerry Ford. Everybody but five or six new members that we have has served in the House with Jerry Ford. I like him. And I look upon his job as one of tremendous challenge. I hope I can make it easier for him, and I hope the country can make it easier for him."

Representative Wilbur D. Mills (Dem-Ark.), whose Ways and Means Committee

is considering such far-reaching measures as tax reform and national health insurance, said that he foresaw "an excellent chance of passing long overdue legislation."

The Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, said that "Congress will go out of its way to be of assistance to him, and I know he will go out of his way to have contacts with us."

The relationship between the President and the Demo-

cratic-controlled Congress was poor almost from the beginning of the Nixon presidency. But last night, even the most partisan Democrats expressed words of good will toward Ford.

Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, the House Democratic leader, said that he and Ford had "diametrically opposed philosophies," but, he added, "I have great respect for his honesty, integrity and ability."

New York Times