

Ford's Search for A Vice President

'I Don't Rule Out Anybody'

Washington

President Ford accelerated his search for a new vice president yesterday, declaring, "I don't rule out anything, or anybody."

He commented in response to a newsman's question after he held a series of 11 half-hour meetings with congressional and political friends and advisers on his second full day in the presidency.

Mr. Ford said he received some "very constructive advice" from those he met with but would not indicate how many names he has under consideration.

Senators and congressmen emerging from the White House sessions said Mr. Ford has expanded his list of possibilities to include women and Democrats.

But it appeared that Republican National Chairman George Bush and former New York Governor Nelson S. Rockefeller were becoming frontrunners in collecting recommendations from Mr. Ford's political friends and advisers.

Bush was recommended by one influential conservative, Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, and mentioned as among the top three possibilities of Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania. Scott, the Senate minority leader, said Rockefeller was his first choice, and that Goldwater was among his top three.

Goldwater himself said he

Ford's First Bill

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President Ford has signed into law the first bill of his administration — a measure authorizing the Coast Guard to adopt modern boiler and pressure safety standards for ships.

The White House, in making this announcement yesterday, said he also signed a second bill. It was a measure to make more flexible the penalties for violations of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

Associated Press

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wasn't seeking the job but "sure, I'd accept it."

Bush, a former Texas congressman and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, met with Ford yesterday but was not available to newsmen afterwards.

House Republican Leader John Rhodes estimated that Mr. Ford has a tentative list of ten or so names he is considering for the vice presidency. Representative Barber Conable of New York said he thought there are about 15 names.

Scott and House GOP whip Leslie C. Arends of Illinois said the names of both Dem-

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ocrats and women came up in their discussions with Mr. Ford, but neither would identify them.

Scott said the possible women nominees are "in and out of Congress."

Knowledgeable White House sources said it is extremely unlikely Mr. Ford would actually nominate a Democrat.

Goldwater said, "If he wants a Democrat, it's fine with me."

As for a woman, Goldwater responded, "I have nothing against a woman just so she can cook and gets home on time."

A Ford aide said he expected the nomination to go to Congress before the end of the week, but repeated that Mr. Ford won't disclose it when he addresses a joint session of Congress and the nation via television and radio at 6 p.m. PDT today.

His spokesman said Mr. Ford will appeal for national unity, stress the government's stability, pledge executive cooperation with Congress and ask for reciprocal cooperation from the legislators.

Associated Press