Visit of President To Congress Panel To Be 2d in History

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—President Ford's scheduled testimony before a house subcommitee would mark only the second time that an incumbent President had appeared in person before a panel of Congress, according to research done last year by the Library of Congress.

The only precedent, the research showed, was an appearance by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 to explain to the House Judiciary Committee how The New York Herald was able to publish his State of the Union Message before the speech had been delivered.

Last night, the White House said that George Washington had testified about an abortive expedition against Indians, but the research shows that Washington only wrote a letter to an Washington did, in fact, testify before the entire Senate in 1789 on the subject of Indian treaties.

In Carl Sandburg's biography of Lincoln, he described an incident in which the President supposedly appeared before a Congressional panel to denounce rumor that his wife was a Confederate sympathizer. Most historians have concluded that no such incident occurred. Theodore Roosevelt testified twice before panels of Congress after he had left office, once on the subject of his campaign contributions and the other during an investigation of the United States Seel Corporation.

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