

# Ford Probe Reportedly Clears Him

Washington

The special Watergate prosecutor has concluded that there is no basis for criminal charges against President Ford or anyone else in allegations of campaign finance improprieties in Mr. Ford's old congressional district, two sources familiar with the probe said last night.

Watergate prosecutor Charles Ruff has concluded his investigation and plans to issue a public report clearing Mr. Ford early next week, according to a Justice Department source.

A source within the FBI said the FBI has completed its investigation for Ruff and also found that there is no basis for prosecuting anyone.

The FBI source said the probe found that the original allegation from an FBI informant lacked substance. "I don't think anybody missed anything" in the investigation, he said.

Asked why an informant's tip prompted such a full investigation, the FBI source said, "If you don't take a look at it in today's climate, that's a coverup."

The special prosecutor was said to have been investigating allegations that campaign contributions had been illegally and covertly diverted to Mr. Ford through Republican committees in Kent county, Mich., which includes Mr. Ford's hometown of Grand Rapids.

*Associated Press*