

Mondale Blasts Ford On Watergate

Kansas City, Mo.

The Ford administration has ignored the lessons of Watergate and the President has "made a mockery" of the American belief that not even a president is above the law, Senator Walter Mondale said yesterday.

In a speech to several hundred students of the University of Missouri's law school in Kansas City, the Democratic vice presidential candidate accused Mr. Ford and his running mate, Kansas Senator Robert Dole, of trying to block Watergate investigations and the reforms proposed in their wake.

"To the bitter end, Mr. Ford strongly defended the actions of Richard Nixon, long after it was obvious to many members of his own party, as well as most of the American people, that the Nixon administration was obstructing justice," the Minnesota senator said.

Mondale said Mr. Ford, when he was House Republican leader, led a successful struggle to prevent the House Banking Committee from looking into the Watergate burglary.

Of the Nixon pardon, Mondale said:

"No act more perpetuated Nixon's own dangerous doctrine that a president is somehow above the law.

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