

Nixon overseas policy praised by Ford

By ROBERT KIPPER

Vice President Gerald R. Ford made little effort at hiding his partisanship Tuesday and Wednesday as he hoisted the Republican banner for some old-fashioned political stumpings in the area.

Speaking on behalf of two Republican Congressmen (Robert J. Huber and William S. Broomfield, of the 18th and 19th districts), the Vice President seized every opportunity to put in a good word for his party and for his President.

Again and again—he hit at a closed reception, during a dinner speech or throughout a press conference—Ford pointed out why he felt the Democrats are wrong and the Republicans are right on certain issues, most notably national defense and cross-district busing.

And always underlying his remarks was his continued support for President Richard Nixon.

"Let me assure you that the President is in the best of health mentally and physically," he said to his Republican audience. "He is determined to continue the mandate for which he was elected in 1972."

"None of the evidence I'm familiar with," he continued, "in any way undercuts the President's assertion that he is innocent of the charges made against him."

Ford praised the President for his accomplishments in foreign affairs, and credited him for certain domestic programs as well.

Speaking to the press Tuesday evening—shortly after it was announced that the White House would require additional time to study the request by the House Judiciary Committee for more tapes and information—Ford also defended the President's handling of that request.

"The President is bending over backwards to cooperate," he said. Insisting that it is the President's right to determine what is and what is not relevant to the house committee's probe, Ford said he thought Nixon would release all pertinent information, enough to allow the committee to "continue and complete its investigation."

When he wasn't defending President Nixon, Ford was drawing the line between Democrats and Republicans on certain issues.

Regarding national defense, Ford said the Republicans understand that peace can only be achieved through strength.

"President Nixon probably understands this as well as any Pres-

ident the United States has ever had," he said. "He achieved sensational breakthroughs in foreign affairs because America was strong militarily."

"Many Democrats believe in weakening ourselves. But bargaining from weakness leads to war."

Regarding cross-district busing, Ford was more direct in drawing

party lines: "The Republicans are on the right side of the burning issue; the Democrats are on the wrong side."

Ford called cross-district busing to achieve racial desegregation a means of "downgrading, not improving our educational system."

He said most Republicans, like himself and President Nixon, have

always opposed the concept of busing.

However, he said that if elected a Democrat probably will support busing.

At a press conference, Ford admitted Republicans could face an uphill battle in this year's Congressional races, but he was not discouraged.

"I always run scared," he said. "I always did. I always think I'm gonna lose. If you worry about the worst, the best will take care of itself."

However, speaking at the Oakland County Young Republicans Dinner Tuesday evening, he was more positive.

"Republicans are on the right side of the issues," he said.

Given the support of party regulars and good candidates, Ford predicted the Republican Party could do well this November despite the sensational gains expected by the Democrats because of Watergate.



The best spots at political dinners are often reserved for television cameras (Photograph by Douglas Bauman)

Dems don't want appointed exec

A petition campaign to win an elected executive for Oakland County was launched at last week's meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club.

The county-wide campaign seeks some 14,000 signatures to allow voters at the August primary to decide whether Oakland County will elect or appoint its chief executive officer.

At its April 4, meeting the Oakland County Board of Commissioners opted for an appointive administrator who would be responsible to a majority of the board. Democratic Club chairman Aldo Vagnozzi reported to the meeting.

"We were frankly disappointed that the commissioners chose to deny the voters the right to make this decision," Vagnozzi said.

"At a time when we see daily the shortcomings of placing tremendous power in the hands of anonymous, appointed officials far removed from the voters, the action of the commissioners is not in the best interests of Oakland County taxpayers."

"An elected chief executive can be held responsible for success or failure by having to periodically face the voters. An appointed administrator could remain in office as long as 14 members of the board agree, or could be removed from office by the same 14 people despite a good record of achievement."

Vagnozzi appointed J. Andrew Ditzhazy of Tralee Trail as Farmington coordinator of the petition campaign. Several petitions were signed at the meeting.

Persons interested in circulating petitions are urged to call Ditzhazy at 476-8725.

Streakers strike

FARMINGTON—Three young streakers struck the Landmark Restaurant in Farmington shortly before 3 a.m. Sunday, April 7.

Police said a full crowd of customers watched the three men, all in their early 20s, streak through the restaurant and into a waiting car.

Two of the men returned to the restaurant a short time later, fully clothed. Police said they were called to the restaurant again, but because no one would press charges, no arrests were made.

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