

**The original documents are located in Box 131, folder “Mar. 30, 1974 - Speech, GOP VIP Reception and Dinner, Clearwater, FL” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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St. Petersburg Times Photo by Weaver Tripp

# Ford Lays GOP Losses To Clique At 'CREEP'



*Ford forges independent course,*  
19-A

By WALTER WURFEL  
St. Petersburg Times Political Writer

CLEARWATER — There must be no more "elite guard of adolescents like 'CREEP' in the Republican Party's future," Vice President Gerald R. Ford told a Republican crowd Saturday night.

Ford blamed CREEP, the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, for failing

## All Smiles — For Now

U.S. Sen. Edward J. Gurney and Public Service Commissioner Paula Hawkins embrace (left) during Saturday's GOP fund-raising dinner in Clearwater three days after they exchanged angry words over her reported consideration for a U.S. Treasury Department job. Mrs. Hawkins may oppose Gurney in the Republican Senate primary, but Saturday night it was all smiles. She gave him a pink 'smile' button and quipped, "That's Round 1." Moments later Gurney responded, "Will you love me in December (after the election) as you did in March?" St. Petersburg Times Political Writer Walter Wurfel interviews Gurney, 1-B.

to support President Nixon's landslide 1972 victory with Republican gains in Congress.

HE SAID that in the future all Republican candidates "should sign an oath not to set up outside committees without the direct approval of the Republican National Committee . . .

"If there are any more cliques of ambitious adolescents who want to run our campaign," Ford said, "let the Democrats have them next time."

An audience of 950 paid from \$25 to \$100 to hear Ford address them in the ballroom of the Harrison Hotel.

Ford faulted CREEP for divorcing the presidential race from the Republican Party so that GOP congressional candidates did not reap the election benefits of the President's long political coat tails.

HE SAID that fulfillment of Democratic predictions that the majority party will gain between 50 and 100 seats in the 1974 election could be "comparable to 1936, when some of the trends developed that had such an adverse impact on our society." He referred to the New Deal legislation passed by overwhelming Democratic congressional majorities during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Ford's exhortation for party unity and organization was similar to an address he made earlier Saturday to the Midwestern Republican Conference in Chicago.

After he was introduced by U.S. Rep. C. W. Bill Young, the Pinellas Republican, Ford called Pinellas County the cradle of the resurgence of Republicanism in Florida.

(See FORD, 11-A)



St. Petersburg Times Photo by Weaver Tripp

Ford Speaks After Arrival In Pinellas



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Data on Page 2-A

# THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

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## The Tampa Times

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See Page 1-C

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR—No. 12 SEVENTEN SECTIONS—270 PAGES

TAMPA, FLORIDA, SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 1974

PRICE THIRTY CENTS

### Vice President In Clearwater

# Ford Blisters Nixon's Re-Election Committee

## Calls Them Political Adolescents

By BOB BRINK  
And WADE STEPHENS III  
Tribune Staff Writers



—Tribune Photo by Fred Fox

Rep. Bill Young (R) Listens To Vice President Gerald Ford  
... spoke yesterday at St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport

**CLEARWATER**—Vice President Gerald R. Ford delivered a blistering attack here last night against President Nixon's 1972 re-election committee, only hours after leveling similar criticism in Chicago.

After telling more than 1,000 Midwest Republicans that the Committee for the Re-Election of the President was "an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents," Ford said in a press conference here:

"I THINK both parties have some accounting (to do) to the people in the elections of 1974," he made the remark in referring to recent reports that Democrats received campaign contributions from the Associated Milk Producers Inc.

"The so-called milk producers made more money available to the Democrats and did more things unethically and illegally for the Democrats than they ever did for the Republicans," he declared.

# Ford Disparages Impeachment Vote



Sun Staff Photo. By Dick Bell

Ford Has Kind Words For Bill Young

By MARK SABLEMAN  
Sun Staff Writer

Vice President Gerald R. Ford took issue Saturday with recent predictions by Senators Mike Mansfield and Charles Percy that there are enough votes to impeach President Nixon, saying that impeachment would be voted only "on a partisan basis or on a peripheral issue."

Ford spoke at a brief press conference at Clearwater-St. Petersburg Airport after his arrival in Clearwater Saturday afternoon. He was greeted by about 60 well wishers at the airport, and joined by Rep. C.W. Bill Young, R-St. Petersburg.

"If the vote (on impeachment) was on the basis of the facts, the charges, and the evidence, I don't think there are enough votes. I don't think there are sufficient grounds for impeachment," he declared.

However, the vote might turn against President Nixon "if it gets off on a partisan basis or on a peripheral issue," Ford said.

Ford avoided taking a position on President Nixon's actions in complying with the House Judiciary Committee, which is investigating impeachment.

But he said he has encouraged the President to make available as quickly as possible tapes and documents relevant to the committee's inquiry.

"I think that in the final analysis there can and probably will be a compromise that's satisfying to both the committee and Nixon," he added.

On other issues, Ford disclaimed Watergate-type corruption as a Republican Party responsibility.

He repeated a proposal he offered earlier in the day in Chicago at a con-

See FORD, Page 2-A



Sun Staff Photo. By Dick Bell

Paula Hawkins, Sen. Gurney In Festive Mood

By F. J. CHILCO  
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# Ford Leads GOP Visits To Suncoast

By WALTER WURFEL

St. Petersburg Times Political Writer

The Suncoast will be on the receiving end of a flurry of Republican politicking today.

Vice President Gerald R. Ford is scheduled to arrive in mid-afternoon. He will hold a news conference and address a Pinellas County Republican fund-raising dinner at the Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater. Diners will pay up to \$100 each.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton will arrive this morning in Tampa. He will be featured speaker tonight at the annual Hillsborough County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner at the Downtown Holiday Inn. Master of ceremonies for the \$7.50-per-plate dinner will be

Hillsborough County Elections Supervisor James Sebesta.

Sen. Edward J. Gurney, R-Fla., who arrived in Tampa Friday, plans to walk through Tyrone Square Mall today, shaking hands with the public, starting at 12:30 p.m.

This evening Gurney will attend the Republican dinner for Ford as will U.S. Rep. C. W. Bill Young, R-Fla. Young represents most of Pinellas County.

Other notable Republicans from around Florida expected to attend are State Party Chairman L. E. "Tommy" Thomas; Public Service Commissioner Paula Hawkins; and Jerry Thomas, the unannounced Republican candidate for governor.



GERALD FORD  
... Clearwater speaker.



ROGERS MORTON  
... talking in Tampa.



SEN. EDWARD GURNEY  
... attending GOP affairs.

florida **POLITICS**



## President's Rumored Visit Brings Denials

• If you've heard rumors President Nixon might visit Pinellas County this weekend, you probably shouldn't get too excited.

Word this morning from the White House is that the President plans to fly to Key Biscayne sometime today, but is not scheduled to visit Pinellas.

• Unconfirmed reports in Washington yesterday hinted Nixon might be a surprise replacement for Vice President Gerald R. Ford, who is scheduled to speak Saturday night at a \$500-a-plate Republican fund-raising dinner at Clearwater's Fort Harrison Hotel.

• "I'm sure that's just a rumor," said Ford's scheduling secretary this morning.

• A spokesman for Rep. C. W. Bill Young's office said the report "has no substance to it."

• However, Pinellas Republican Executive Committee Chairman Ed Kiefer wouldn't rule out the possibility of a Nixon visit to replace Ford as the speaker.

• "Gerry is making a speech in Chicago Saturday morning and then he flies in here Saturday afternoon. That's a little hard on the man, and it could be true the President would fly in.

• "We're all up in the air until we definitely hear from them."

• Ford is scheduled to arrive at the St. Petersburg - Clearwater International Airport 2:20 p.m. Saturday. There will be a press conference at the airport at 2:30 p.m., with the dinner set for 7:30 p.m. Ford is expected to speak between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

• Ironically, the Fort Harrison dining room was cited Monday by the Pinellas County Health Department for several sanitation violations. (See story this page.)





# St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper

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ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1974

PAGE 1-A BOX

## Nixon Coming To Pinellas?

There were unconfirmed reports in Washington Thursday that President Nixon might visit Pinellas County this weekend. The St. Petersburg Times learned from a Washington source Thursday night.

According to the source, the President might be a surprise replacement for Vice President Gerald B. Ford, who is scheduled to speak Saturday night at a \$500-a-plate Republican fund-raising dinner at the Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater.

The White House Press Office would say only "The President's travel plans for the weekend have not been announced."

But another source told The Times that orders have been readied for Air Force One and Air Force Two (which carries presidential staff members and the national press) to fly to Florida today.

Rep. C. W. Bill Young, R-St. Petersburg, said he had checked the rumor with Vice President Ford who said, "If the President is coming with me or instead of me, it's news to me."

Another source told The Times that a Nixon flight to Key Biscayne this weekend is virtually a certainty and a Saturday night flight to Pinellas seemed to be more than just a rumor.





# PINELLAS TIMES

Local News Of Clearwater, Largo, Seminole  
Dunedin, Tarpon Springs, Oldsmar And All Upper Pinellas

PAGE 1  
FIRST LEAD

Saturday, March 30, 1974

## Ford Agents X-Ray Hotel

Pinellas Times Bureau

CLEARWATER — Perhaps it's a good thing Vice President Gerald Ford isn't staying overnight after his scheduled

the winter season, so if Ford wants to take an afternoon nap it will be in one of the Fort Harrison's junior suites, a connecting sitting room and

survey the hotel and surrounding buildings as Ford's security force checked for any likely trouble spots in case of demonstrations or other inci-

Although the hotel towers above other downtown buildings, except for the steel structure of the 11-floor Bank of Clearwater building, just

# PINELLAS TIMES

Local News Of Clearwater, Largo, Seminole  
Dunedin, Tarpon Springs, Oldsmar And All Upper Pinellas

St. Petersburg Times  
FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER

Monday, April 1, 1974



St. Petersburg Times Staff Photo by Weaver Tripp

## It Was A Republican Day In Clearwater

It was no place for a Democrat Saturday night at the Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater for a Republican Party fund-raising dinner with guests Vice President Gerald R. Ford, Central and South Pinellas congressman Rep. C. W. Bill

Young, R-St. Petersburg, and U.S. Sen. Edward Gurney heading the list. Young stood with Ford as Ford spoke to about 950 other guests, who paid from \$25 to \$100 to attend the function.

