



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

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Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

I believe deeply in the American principle that a man should be presumed to be innocent unless proved to be guilty.

I favor a House investigation of the charges against Vice-President Agnew because fairness dictates that he should be permitted this opportunity to defend himself in open hearings.

The Vice-President is being tried in the news media due to the many leaks concerning the charges against him. It would seem impossible that he could get a fair hearing in the courts under the circumstances. I therefore think the House should grant his request for a full investigation of the charges against him.

This investigation should be carried out by a select committee especially appointed for that purpose. Such a committee could concentrate on the investigation. That would appear preferable to having the matter handled by the House Judiciary Committee, which has many other items of business to deal with in the course of its regular duties.

In my view, the House should act as soon as possible on the Vice-President's request and should act affirmatively, in line with the Calhoun case of 1826-27. The Calhoun case established a precedent which should guide us now.

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