

## Ford criticizes Carter economics

By LOU CANNON  
Washington Post

LOS ANGELES — Former President Gerald R. Ford ridiculed President Carter's anti-inflation package Saturday.

"Mr. Carter's anti-inflation program came in like a lion," Ford said. "It's going out like a mouse."

The three-point package announced Friday by the President features largely voluntary measures that Administration spokesmen said would restrain excessive wage or price increases.

**CARTER REPORTEDLY** scrapped at the last mo-

ment a plan to start industry-by-industry discussions over pending wage and price increases, after both business and labor leaders objected.

Ford made no specific reference to this abandoned feature or to any of the various Carter proposals to reduce inflation by overhauling government regulations that affect industry and agriculture. But the former president said Carter's program is "just talk."

Ford said a renewal of runaway inflation now faces the United States and cannot be halted except by tough restrictions on government spending. He suggested using the budget that he submitted to Congress before he left office as

the basis for a reduction in federal spending.

**THE FORMER PRESIDENT** looking relaxed, voiced his criticism of Carter in a brief interview following a speech to a Republican group here.

Earlier, during a question-and-answer session with Republican state legislative leaders from around the country, Ford opposed two elements of Carter's plan to change presidential election procedures. He said allowing registration on voting day would encourage fraud, and he also opposed eliminating restrictions on political participation by federal employees.

**MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE** in California former Governor Ronald Reagan said Saturday in Anaheim that Carter should use the "trump card" of threatening a vigorous arms race if the Soviet Union fails to agree on acceptable strategic arms limits.

He said Carter should be willing to use the "threat" of a new arms race because if the Russians "have to compete with us, I'm sure they'll come running to the table and say 'wait a minute' because they know they can't."