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217A

TEXT 9-8

WITH PARDON

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S PROCLAMATION GRANTING PARDON TO FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON:

"RICHARD NIXON BECAME THE THIRTY-SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON JANUARY 20, 1969, AND WAS RE-ELECTED IN 1972 FOR A SECOND TERM BY THE ELECTORS OF FORTY-NINE OF THE FIFTY STATES. HIS TERM IN OFFICE CONTINUED UNTIL HIS RESIGNATION ON AUGUST 9, 1974.

"PURSUANT TO RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ITS COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY CONDUCTED AN INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION ON THE IMPEACHMENT OF THE PRESIDENT EXTENDING OVER MORE THAN EIGHT MONTHS. THE HEARINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS DELIBERATIONS, WHICH RECEIVED WIDE NATIONAL PUBLICITY OVER TELEVISION, RADIO, AND IN PRINTED MEDIA, RESULTED IN VOTES ADVERSE TO RICHARD NIXON ON RECOMMENDED ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT.

"AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN ACTS OR OMISSIONS OCCURRING BEFORE HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, RICHARD NIXON HAS BECOME LIABLE TO POSSIBLE INDICTMENT AND TRIAL FOR OFFENSES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. WHETHER OR NOT HE SHALL BE SO PROSECUTED DEPENDS ON FINDINGS OF THE APPROPRIATE GRAND JURY AND ON THE DISCRETION OF THE AUTHORIZED PROSECUTOR. SHOULD AN INDICTMENT ENSUE, THE ACCUSED SHALL THEN BE ENTITLED TO A FAIR TRIAL BY AN IMPARTIAL JURY, AS GUARANTEED TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL BY THE CONSTITUTION.



PARDON 9-8

3RD ADD NIGHT LD PARDON WASHINGTON 212A XXX RESPECT."

FORD SAID THAT "AFTER YEARS OF BITTER CONTROVERSY AND DIVISIVE NATIONAL DEBATE, I HAVE BEEN ADVISED AND AM COMPELLED TO CONCLUDE THAT MANY MONTHS AND PERHAPS MORE YEARS HAVE TO PASS BEFORE RICHARD NIXON COULD OBTAIN A FAIR TRIAL IN A JURY IN ANY JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER GOVERNING DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT."

REPORTERS WERE SUMMONED TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF EXTRAORDINARY SECRECY.

THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS HAD REPORTED SUNDAY THAT NIXON'S LAWYER, HERBERT MILLER, CONFERRED LAST WEEK WITH SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI AND FORD COUNSELOR PHILIP BUCHEN. THE STAR-NEWS SAID MILLER WAS IN SAN CLEMENTE OVER THE WEEKEND TALKING WITH HIS CLIENT.

THERE WAS NO WORD THAT FORD CONSULTED WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BEFORE MAKING HIS DECISION, BUT SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER'S OFFICE HAD AN IMMEDIATE COMMENT.

GOLDWATER CALLED THE DECISION "DECENT AND PRUDENT" BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY NIXON WOULD HAVE GETTING A FAIR TRIAL.

FORD SAID THAT IF NIXON WERE PROSECUTED "THE FORMER PRESIDENT, INSTEAD OF ENJOYING EQUAL TREATMENT WITH ANY OTHER CITIZEN ACCUSED OF VIOLATING THE LAW, WOULD BE CRUELLY AND EXCESSIVELY PENALIZED, EITHER IN PRESERVING THE PRESUMPTION OF HIS INNOCENCE OR IN DETERMINING A SPEEDY DETERMINATION OF HIS GUILT IN ORDER TO REPAY A LEGAL DEBT TO SOCIETY."

FORD DID NOT MENTION ANY SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST NIXON, WHO DISCLOSED IN A JUNE 23, 1972, TRANSCRIPT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH FORMER TOP AIDE H. R. HALDEMAN THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN THE WATERGATE COVERUP FROM ITS OUTSET.

JAWORSKI WAS NOT MENTIONED. HE HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING THE NIXON CASE WITH A POSSIBLE VIEW TO BRINGING THE INQUIRY BEFORE A FEDERAL GRAND JURY.

SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE SAID NIXON SHOULD MAKE A PUBLIC ADMISSION OF GUILT BEFORE BEING GIVEN A TOTAL PARDON.

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE SOUGHT SPECIAL GUIDANCE FROM GOD AND HE WAS CERTAIN "IN MY OWN MIND AND CONSCIENCE THAT IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO."

HE SAID THAT THE CONSTITUTION "IS A SUPREME LAW OF OUR LAND AND GOVERNS OUR ACTIONS AS CITIZENS.

"ONLY THE LAWS OF GOD, WHICH GOVERN OUR CONSCIENCES, ARE SUPERIOR TO IT.

"AS WE ARE A NATION UNDER GOD, SO I AM SWORN TO UPHOLD OUR LAWS WITH THE HELP OF GOD. AND I HAVE SOUGHT SUCH GUIDANCE AND SEARCHED MY OWN CONSCIENCE WITH SPECIAL DILIGENCE TO DETERMINE THE RIGHT THING FOR ME TO DO WITH RESPECT TO MY PREDECESSOR IN THIS PLACE, RICHARD NIXON, AND HIS LOYAL WIFE AND FAMILY."

FORD MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT 11 A.M. AFTER ATTENDING 8 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S ON LAYAFETTE PARK, ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE WATERGATE COVERUP TRIAL OF SIX OF NIXON'S FORMER ASSOCIATES BEGINS SEPT. 30 BEFORE DISTRICT JUDGE JOHN J. SIRICA. FORMER AIDE JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN'S ATTORNEYS HAVE SUBPOENAED NIXON AS A WITNESS.

MORE

UPI 09-08 01:01 PED

PARDON 9-8

4TH ADD NIGHT LD PARDON WASHINGTON 212A XXX WITNESS.

FORD SAID "THERE ARE NO HISTORIC OR LEGAL PRECEDENTS TO WHICH I CAN TURN IN THIS MATTER, NONE THAT PRECISELY FIT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF A PRIVATE CITIZEN WHO HAS RESIGNED THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES.

"BUT IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AND ACCUSATIONS HANG LIKE A SWORD OVER OUR FORMER PRESIDENT'S HEAD THREATENING HIS HEALTH AS HE TRIES TO RESHAPE HIS LIFE, A GREAT PART WHICH WAS SPENT IN THE SERVICE OF THIS COUNTRY AND BY THE MANDATE OF ITS PEOPLE."

FORD SAID THAT A PERIOD OF LONG LITIGATION WOULD AROUSE "UGLY PASSIONS" AND "OUR PEOPLE WOULD POLARIZE IN THEIR OPINIONS, AND THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR FREE INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AGAIN CHALLENGED AT HOME AND ABROAD.

"IN THE END, THE COURTS MIGHT WELL HOLD THAT RICHARD NIXON HAS BEEN DENIED DUE PROCESS AND THE VERDICT OF HISTORY WOULD BE EVEN MORE INCONCLUSIVE WITH RESPECT TO THOSE CHARGES ARISING OUT OF THE PERIOD OF HIS PRESIDENCY OF WHICH I AM PRESENTLY AWARE."

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH "THE ULTIMATE FATE OF RICHARD NIXON", BUT WITH THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY.

"IN THIS I DARE NOT DEPEND UPON MY PERSONAL SYMPATHY AS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT NOR MY PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT AS A LAWYER ... AS PRESIDENT, MY PRIMARY CONCERN MUST ALWAYS BE THE GREATEST GOOD OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, WHOSE SERVANT I AM.

"I DO BELIEVE THAT THE BUCK STOPS HERE," THE PRESIDENT SAID, "AND THAT I CANNOT RELY UPON PUBLIC OPINION POLLS TO TELL ME WHAT IS RIGHT.

"FINALLY, I FEEL THAT RICHARD NIXON AND HIS LOVED ONES HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH, AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER NO MATTER WHAT I DO, NO MATTER WHAT WE AS A GREAT AND GOOD NATION CAN DO TOGETHER TO MAKE HIS GOAL OF PEACE COME TRUE.

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, PURSUANT TO THE PARDON POWER CONFERRED UPON ME BY ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, OF THE CONSTITUTION, HAVE GRANTED AND BY THESE PRESENTS DO GRANT A FULL, FREE, AND ABSOLUTE PARDON UNTO RICHARD NIXON FOR ALL OFFENSES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HE, RICHARD NIXON, HAS COMMITTED OR MAY HAVE COMMITTED OR TAKEN PART IN DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 20, 1969, THROUGH AUG. 9, 1974."

UPI 09-08 01:08 PED

212A

PARDON 9-8

URGENT

NIGHT LD

BY HELEN THOMAS

UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD SUNDAY GRANTED RICHARD M. NIXON A "FULL, FREE AND ABSOLUTE PARDON" FOR ANY OFFENSES HE MAY HAVE COMMITTED IN OFFICE AND NIXON IMMEDIATELY ACKNOWLEDGED "REGRET AND PAIN AT THE ANGUISH MY MISTAKES OVER WATERGATE HAVE CAUSED THE NATION."

FORD SAID HE WAS ACTING TO PREVENT "PROLONGED AND DIVISIVE DEBATE" THAT WOULD RESULT FROM A NIXON TRIAL AND BECAUSE "SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AND ACCUSATIONS HANG LIKE A SWORD ... THREATENING HIS HEALTH AS HE TRIES TO RESHAPE HIS LIFE" IN CALIFORNIA.

MORE

UPI 09-08 12:19 PED

214A

PARDON 9-8

1ST ADD NIGHT LD PARDON WASHINGTON 212A XXX IN CALIFORNIA.

FORD PERSONALLY READ HIS SUDDEN AND DRAMATIC PARDON ANNOUNCEMENT TO REPORTERS IN THE WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE AND HE DEPARTED FROM THE PREPARED TEXT TO INSERT THE WORDS "THREATENING HIS HEALTH" VERBALLY AS HE READ ALONG.

FORD SAID NIXON HAD SUFFERED "AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY IN WHICH WE HAVE ALL PLAYED A PART..

"IT CAN GO ON AND ON AND ON, AND SOMEONE MUST WRITE 'THE END' TO IT.

MORE

UPI 09-08 12:26 PED



216A

PARDON 9-3

2ND ADD NIGHT LD PARDON WASHINGTON 212A XXX TO IT.

"I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ONLY I CAN DO THAT, AND IF I CAN, I MUST."

FORD SIGNED A PROCLAMATION GRANTING NIXON A PARDON COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JAN. 20, 1969, UNTIL AUG. 9, 1974 -- THE DAY NIXON LEFT OFFICE.

FORD READ HIS ANNOUNCEMENT IN SOLEMN AND SYMPATHETIC TONES ONE MONTH TO THE DAY AFTER NIXON TOLD THE NATION HE WOULD BECOME THE FIRST PRESIDENT IN HISTORY TO RESIGN.

IN SAN CLEMENTE, CALIF., WHERE NIXON HAS LIVED IN SECLUSION SINCE HE LEFT OFFICE, THE FORMER PRESIDENT ISSUED A STATEMENT SOON AFTER THE WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT IN WHICH HE OWNED UP TO SOME MISTAKES OF JUDGEMENT BUT NO OUTRIGHT CRIMINAL WRONGDOING IN HIS HANDLING OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR.

LOOKING BACK ON WHAT IS STILL IN MY MIND A COMPLEX AND CONFUSING MAZE OF EVENTS, DECISIONS, PRESSURES, AND PERSONALITIES, ONE THING I CAN SEE SEARLY NOW IS THAT I WAS WRONG IN NOT ACTING MORE DECISIVELY AND MORE FORTHRIGHTLY IN DEALING WITH WATERGATE, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT REACHED THE STAGE OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AND GREW FROM A POLITICAL SCANDAL INTO A NATIONAL TRAGEDY," NIXON'S STATEMENT SAID IN PART.

"NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE THE DEPTHS OF MY REGRET AND PAIN AT THE ANGUISH MY MISTAKES OVER WATERGATE HAVE CAUSED THE NATION AND THE PRESIDENCY A NATION I SO DEEPLY LOVED AND AN INSTITUTION I SO GREATLY RESPECT."

MORE

UPI 09-08 12:38 PED

PARDON 9-8

3RD ADD NIGHT LD PARDON WASHINGTON 212A XXX RESPECT."

FORD SAID THAT "AFTER YEARS OF BITTER CONTROVERSY AND DIVISIVE NATIONAL DEBATE, I HAVE BEEN ADVISED AND AM COMPELLED TO CONCLUDE THAT MANY MONTHS AND PERHAPS MORE YEARS HAVE TO PASS BEFORE RICHARD NIXON COULD OBTAIN A FAIR TRIAL IN A JURY IN ANY JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER GOVERNING DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT."

REPORTERS WERE SUMMONED TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF EXTRAORDINARY SECRECY.

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THERE WAS NO WORD THAT FORD CONSULTED WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BEFORE MAKING HIS DECISION, BUT SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER'S OFFICE HAD AN IMMEDIATE COMMENT.

GOLDWATER CALLED THE DECISION "DECENT AND PRUDENT" BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY NIXON WOULD HAVE GETTING A FAIR TRIAL.

FORD SAID THAT IF NIXON WERE PROSECUTED "THE FORMER PRESIDENT, INSTEAD OF ENJOYING EQUAL TREATMENT WITH ANY OTHER CITIZEN ACCUSED OF VIOLATING THE LAW, WOULD BE CRUELLY AND EXCESSIVELY PENALIZED, EITHER IN PRESERVING THE PRESUMPTION OF HIS INNOCENCE OR IN DETERMINING A SPEEDY DETERMINATION OF HIS GUILT IN ORDER TO REPAY A LEGAL DEBT TO SOCIETY."

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THE PRESIDENT SAID HE SOUGHT SPECIAL GUIDANCE FROM GOD AND HE WAS CERTAIN "IN MY OWN MIND AND CONSCIENCE THAT IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO."

HE SAID THAT THE CONSTITUTION "IS A SUPREME LAW OF OUR LAND AND GOVERNS OUR ACTIONS AS CITIZENS.

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"AS WE ARE A NATION UNDER GOD, SO I AM SWORN TO UPHOLD OUR LAWS WITH THE HELP OF GOD. AND I HAVE SOUGHT SUCH GUIDANCE AND SEARCHED MY OWN CONSCIENCE WITH SPECIAL DILIGENCE TO DETERMINE THE RIGHT THING FOR ME TO DO WITH RESPECT TO MY PREDECESSOR IN THIS PLACE, RICHARD NIXON, AND HIS LOYAL WIFE AND FAMILY."

FORD MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT 11 A.M. AFTER ATTENDING 8 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S ON LAYAFETTE PARK, ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

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MORE

UPI 09-08 01:01 PED



4TH ADD NIGHT LD PARDON WASHINGTON 212A XXX WITNESS.

FORD SAID "THERE ARE NO HISTORIC OR LEGAL PRECEDENTS TO WHICH I CAN TURN IN THIS MATTER, NONE THAT PRECISELY FIT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF A PRIVATE CITIZEN WHO HAS RESIGNED THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES.

"BUT IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AND ACCUSATIONS HANG LIKE A SWORD OVER OUR FORMER PRESIDENT'S HEAD THREATENING HIS HEALTH AS HE TRIES TO RESHAPE HIS LIFE, A GREAT PART WHICH WAS SPENT IN THE SERVICE OF THIS COUNTRY AND BY THE MANDATE OF ITS PEOPLE."

FORD SAID THAT A PERIOD OF LONG LITIGATION WOULD AROUSE "UGLY PASSIONS" AND "OUR PEOPLE WOULD POLARIZE IN THEIR OPINIONS, AND THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR FREE INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AGAIN CHALLENGED AT HOME AND ABROAD.

"IN THE END, THE COURTS MIGHT WELL HOLD THAT RICHARD NIXON HAS BEEN DENIED DUE PROCESS AND THE VERDICT OF HISTORY WOULD BE EVEN MORE INCONCLUSIVE WITH RESPECT TO THOSE CHARGES ARISING OUT OF THE PERIOD OF HIS PRESIDENCY OF WHICH I AM PRESENTLY AWARE."

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH "THE ULTIMATE FATE OF RICHARD NIXON", BUT WITH THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY.

"IN THIS I DARE NOT DEPEND UPON MY PERSONAL SYMPATHY AS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT NOR MY PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT AS A LAWYER ... AS PRESIDENT, MY PRIMARY CONCERN MUST ALWAYS BE THE GREATEST GOOD OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, WHOSE SERVANT I AM.

"I DO BELIEVE THAT THE BUCK STOPS HERE," THE PRESIDENT SAID, "AND THAT I CANNOT RELY UPON PUBLIC OPINION POLLS TO TELL ME WHAT IS RIGHT.

"FINALLY, I FEEL THAT RICHARD NIXON AND HIS LOVED ONES HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH, AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER NO MATTER WHAT I DO, NO MATTER WHAT WE AS A GREAT AND GOOD NATION CAN DO TOGETHER TO MAKE HIS GOAL OF PEACE COME TRUE.

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, PURSUANT TO THE PARDON POWER CONFERRED UPON ME BY ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, OF THE CONSTITUTION, HAVE GRANTED AND BY THESE PRESENTS DO GRANT A FULL, FREE, AND ABSOLUTE PARDON UNTO RICHARD NIXON FOR ALL OFFENSES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HE, RICHARD NIXON, HAS COMMITTED OR MAY HAVE COMMITTED OR TAKEN PART IN DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 20, 1969, THROUGH AUG. 9, 1974."



222A

PARDON 9-8

INSERT PARDON WASHINGTON 212A AFTER 7TH PGH XXX LEFT OFFICE.

IN REHOBOTH, MASS., RABBI BARUCH KORFF SAID HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE NIXON COMPOUND AT SAN CLEMENTE., CALIF., BUT DID NOT SAY WHETHER HE HAD TALKED TO NIXON PERSONALLY. "ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT HIS FRAME OF MIND THIS MORNING IS ONE OF EXHILARATION AND THANKSGIVING," HE SAID.

PICKUP 8TH PGH 212A: FORD READ

UPI 09-08 01:15 PED



222A

PARDON 9-8

INSERT PARDON WASHINGTON 212A AFTER 7TH PGH XXX LEFT OFFICE.

IN REHOBOTH, MASS., RABBI BARUCH KORFF SAID HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE NIXON COMPOUND AT SAN CLEMENTE., CALIF., BUT DID NOT SAY WHETHER HE HAD TALKED TO NIXON PERSONALLY. "ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT HIS FRAME OF MIND THIS MORNING IS ONE OF EXHILARATION AND THANKSGIVING," HE SAID.

PICKUP 8TH PGH 212A: FORD READ

UPI 09-08 01:15 PED

A
PARDON 9-8

INSERT NIGHT LD PARDON WASHINGTON 212A AFTER 9TH PGH XXX LEFT
OFFICE.

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI WAS INFORMED OF FORD'S DECISION
EARLY SUNDAY MORNING BY WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL PHILIP BUCHEN, A JAWORSKI
SPOKESMAN SAID. HE SAID JAWORSKI HAD NO FORMAL REACTION AND WOULD
ISSUE NO STATEMENT.

JAWORSKI, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN CONFERRING IN RECENT WEEKS WITH
NIXON'S NEWLY HIRED CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER, HERBERT J. MILLER JR.,
WAS UNDERSTOOD TO FEEL THAT ANY DECISION TO PARDON NIXON WAS SOLELY
UP TO FORD AND FULLY WITHIN HIS CONSTITUTIONAL PREROGATIVES AS
PRESIDENT. FORD'S STATEMENT INDICATED HE HAD MADE THAT DECISION
ALONE, WITHOUT CONSULTING THE PROSECUTOR.

PICKUP 10TH PGH BGNG FORD READ HIS ANNOUNCEMENT

UPI 09-08 02:16 PED



A

PARDON 9-8

INSERT NIGHT LD PARDON WASHINGTON 212A AFTER 9TH PGH XXX LEFT OFFICE.

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI WAS INFORMED OF FORD'S DECISION EARLY SUNDAY MORNING BY WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL PHILIP BUCHEN, A JAWORSKI SPOKESMAN SAID. HE SAID JAWORSKI HAD NO FORMAL REACTION AND WOULD ISSUE NO STATEMENT.

JAWORSKI, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN CONFERRING IN RECENT WEEKS WITH NIXON'S NEWLY HIRED CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER, HERBERT J. MILLER JR., WAS UNDERSTOOD TO FEEL THAT ANY DECISION TO PARDON NIXON WAS SOLELY UP TO FORD AND FULLY WITHIN HIS CONSTITUTIONAL PREROGATIVES AS PRESIDENT. FORD'S STATEMENT INDICATED HE HAD MADE THAT DECISION ALONE, WITHOUT CONSULTING THE PROSECUTOR.

PICKUP 10TH PGH BGNG FORD READ HIS ANNOUNCEMENT

UPI 09-08 02:16 PED



PARDON 9-8

INSERT NIGHT LD PARDON WASHINGTON 212A AFTER 3RD PGH XXX READ
ALONG.

WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL PHILIP BUCHEN CALLED FORD'S PARDON OF NIXON AN
"ACT OF MERCY," AND SAID THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO DRAW FROM THE FORMER
PRESIDENT AN ADMISSION OF ANY CRIME.

IN A SIMULTANEOUS ACTION, THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THAT ATTORNEY
GENERAL WILLIAM SAXBE HAS RULED THAT NIXON'S WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENTS,
PAPERS AND TAPES ARE HIS PERSONAL PROPERTY.

AT THE SAME TIME NIXON REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH ARTHUR F.
SAMPSON, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION,
DECLARING THAT NIXON RETAINS LEGAL TITLE TO THE MATERIALS, BUT THAT
PHYSICAL CUSTODY WILL BE RETAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THREE YEARS.

PICKUP 4TH PGH BGNG FORD SAID NIXON

UPI 09-08 01:51 PED



IT IS BELIEVED THAT A TRIAL OF RICHARD NIXON, IF IT BECAME NECESSARY, COULD NOT FAIRLY BEGIN UNTIL A YEAR OR MORE HAS ELAPSED. IN THE MEANTIME, THE TRANQUILITY TO WHICH THIS NATION HAS BEEN RESTORED BY THE EVENTS OF RECENT WEEKS COULD BE IRREPARABLY LOST BY THE PROSPECTS OF BRINGING TO TRIAL A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THE PROSPECTS OF SUCH TRIAL WILL CAUSE PROLONGED AND DIVISIVE DEBATE OVER THE PROPRIETY OF EXPOSING TO FURTHER PUNISHMENT AND DEGRADATION A MAN WHO HAS ALREADY PAID THE UNPRECEDENTED PENALTY OF RELINQUISHING THE HIGHEST ELECTIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES.

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, PURSUANT TO THE PARDON POWER CONFERRED UPON ME BY ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, OF THE CONSTITUTION, HAVE GRANTED AND BY THESE PRESENTS DO GRANT A FULL, FREE, AND ABSOLUTE PARDON UNTO RICHARD NIXON FOR ALL OFFENSES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES WHICH HE, RICHARD NIXON, HAS COMMITTED OR MAY HAVE COMMITTED OR TAKEN PART IN DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 20, 1969 THROUGH AUGUST 9, 1974.

"IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND THIS 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR, AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE 199TH."

UPI 89-08 12:46 PED

200A

FLASH

NIXON PARDONED

UPI 09-08 11:20 AED

201A

FORD 9-8

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED SUNDAY THAT HE HAS GRANTED RICHARD M. NIXON A "FULL, FREE AND ABSOLUTE PARDON" FOR ALL OFFENSES THE FORMER PRESIDENT COMMITTED OR MAY HAVE COMMITTED WHILE IN OFFICE.

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:21 AED

202A

FORD 9-8

1ST ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX OFFICE.

THE ACTION CAME ALMOST ONE MONTH TO THE DAY SINCE NIXON RESIGNED THE PRESIDENCY UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE WATERGATE SCANDAL.

FORD SAID NIXON AND HIS FAMILY HAD "SUFFERED ENOUGH AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER NO MATTER WHAT I DO."

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:24 AED



203A

FORD 9-8

2ND ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX I DO."

"RICHARD NIXON AND HIS LOVED ONES WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER, NO WHAT I DO, NO MATTER WHAT WE AS A GREAT AND GOOD NATION CAN DO TOGETHER TO MAKE HIS GOAL OF PEACE COME TRUE," THE PRESIDENT SAID.

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:26 AED

- 204A

FORD 9-8

3RD ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX SAID.

FORD SPOKE IN SOLEMN TERMS AND SAID HE FELT THAT THE NIXON FAMILY HAS BEEN THROUGH "AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY IN WHICH WE HAVE ALL PLAYED A PART. IT CAN GO ON AND ON AND ON, AND SOME ONE MUST WRITE THE 'THE END TO IT.'"

"I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ONLY I CAN DO THAT, HE SAID, AND IF I CAN, I MUST."

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:29 AED

205A

FORD 9-8

4TH ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX MUST."

FORD SIGNED A PROCLAMATION GRANTING A PARDON TO NIXON FOR THE PERIOD FROM JAN. 20, 1969 UNTIL AUG. 9, 1974 -- THE DAY NIXON RESIGNED.

REPORTERS WERE SUMMONED TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN EXTRAORDINARY SECRECY SURROUNDING THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

AT NO POINT DID FORD MENTION ANY PLEA BARGAINING ON NIXON'S PART, NOR DID HE REFER TO ANY CHARGES BEING FILED ALTHOUGH HE DID MAKE A REFERENCE TO "POTENTIAL LITIGATION."

A PRESIDENT HAS AUTHORITY TO GRANT A PARDON AT ANY STAGE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS -- EVEN IN ADVANCE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS BEING INITIATED.

"AFTER YEARS OF BITTER CONTROVERSY AND DIVISIVE NATIONAL DEBATE, I HAVE BEEN ADVISED AND AM COMPELLED TO CONCLUDE THAT MANY MONTHS AND PERHAPS MORE YEARS HAVE TO PASS BEFORE RICHARD NIXON COULD OBTAIN A FAIR TRIAL IN A JURY IN ANY JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER GOVERNING DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT."

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:37 AED



5TH ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX COURT."

FORD DID NOT MENTION ANY SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST NIXON, WHO DISCLOSED IN A JUNE 23, 1972, TRANSCRIPT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH HIS FORMER TOP AIDE H. R. HALDEMAN THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN THE WATERGATE COVERUP FROM THE OUTSET.

NOR WAS THERE ANY MENTION OF SPECIAL PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI WHO HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING THE NIXON CASE WITH A POSSIBLE VIEW TO BRINGING THE INQUIRY BEFORE A FEDERAL GRAND JURY.

THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT JAWORSKI AND NIXON'S NEWLY-HIRED LAWYER, HERBERT MILLER, A FORMER JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, MAY HAVE BEEN PLEA BARGAINING.

SOME MEMBER OF CONGRESS HAVE INDICATED THAT NIXON SHOULD MAKE SOME PUBLIC ADMISSION OF GUILT BEFORE BEING GIVEN A TOTAL PARDON.

"TO PROCRASTINATE, TO AGONIZE, TO WAIT FOR A MORE FAVORABLE TURN OF EVENTS THAT MAY NEVER COME, OR MORE COMPELLING EXTERNAL PRESSURES THAT MAY AS WELL BE WRONG AS RIGHT, IS IN ITSELF A DECISION OF SORTS AND A WEAK AND POTENTIALLY COURSE FOR A PRESIDENT TO FOLLOW," FORD SAID.

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:46 AED

2074

FORD 8-9

5TH ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX SAID.

FORD SAID THAT AS HE SEE THE FACT, "THE FORMER PRESIDENT INSTEAD OF ENJOYING EQUAL TREATMENT WITH ANY OTHER CITIZEN ACCUSED OF VIOLATING THE LAW, WOULD BE CRUELLY AND EXCESSIVELY PENALIZED EITHER IN PRESERVING THE PRESUMPTION OF HIS INNOCENCE OR IN DETERMINING A SPEEDY DETERMINATION OF HIS GUILT IN ORDER TO REPAY A LEGAL DEBT TO SOCIETY."

UPI 09-08 11:51 AED



209A

FORD 9-8

INSERT FORD WASHINGTON 201A AFTER 1ST PGH XXX OFFICE.

NIXON, MEANWHILE, ISSUED A STATEMENT FROM SAN CLEMENTE EXPRESSING
"MY REGRET AND PAIN AT THE ANGUISH MY MISTAKES OVER WATERGATE HAVE
CAUSED THE NATION..."

PICKUP 2ND PGH BONG THE ACTION CAME

UPI 09-08 12:08 PED

210A

FORD 9-8

INSERT FORD WASHINGTON 201A AFTER 4RD PGH XXX WHAT I DO."

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS ACTING TO PREVENT "PROLONGED AND
DIVISIVE DEBATE" THAT WOULD RESULT FROM NIXON'S TRIAL AND BECAUSE
"SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AND ACCUSATIONS HANG LIKE A SWORD ...
THREATENING HIS HEALTH AS HE TRIES TO RESHAPE HIS LIFE" IN
CALIFORNIA.

PICKUP 5TH PGH 201A: "RICHARD NIXON

UPI 09-08 12:10 PED



201A

FORD 9-8

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED SUNDAY THAT HE HAS GRANTED RICHARD M. NIXON A "FULL, FREE AND ABSOLUTE PARDON" FOR ALL OFFENSES THE FORMER PRESIDENT COMMITTED OR MAY HAVE COMMITTED WHILE IN OFFICE.

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:21 AED

202A

FORD 9-8

1ST ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX OFFICE.

THE ACTION CAME ALMOST ONE MONTH TO THE DAY SINCE NIXON RESIGNED THE PRESIDENCY UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE WATERGATE SCANDAL.

FORD SAID NIXON AND HIS FAMILY HAD "SUFFERED ENOUGH AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER NO MATTER WHAT I DO."

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:24 AED

203A

FORD 9-8

2ND ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX I DO."

"RICHARD NIXON AND HIS LOVED ONES WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER, NO WHAT I DO, NO MATTER WHAT WE AS A GREAT AND GOOD NATION CAN DO TOGETHER TO MAKE HIS GOAL OF PEACE COME TRUE," THE PRESIDENT SAID.

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:26 AED

204A

FORD 9-8

3RD ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX SAID.

FORD SPOKE IN SOLEMN TERMS AND SAID HE FELT THAT THE NIXON FAMILY HAS BEEN THROUGH "AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY IN WHICH WE HAVE ALL PLAYED A PART. IT CAN GO ON AND ON AND ON, AND SOME ONE MUST WRITE THE 'THE END TO IT.'"

"I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ONLY I CAN DO THAT, HE SAID, AND IF I CAN, I MUST."

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:29 AED



205A

FORD 9-8

4TH ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX MUST."

FORD SIGNED A PROCLAMATION GRANTING A PARDON TO NIXON FOR THE PERIOD FROM JAN. 20, 1969 UNTIL AUG. 9, 1974 -- THE DAY NIXON RESIGNED.

REPORTERS WERE SUMMONED TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN EXTRAORDINARY SECRECY SURROUNDING THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

AT NO POINT DID FORD MENTION ANY PLEA BARGAINING ON NIXON'S PART, NOR DID HE REFER TO ANY CHARGES BEING FILED ALTHOUGH HE DID MAKE A REFERENCE TO "POTENTIAL LITIGATION."

A PRESIDENT HAS AUTHORITY TO GRANT A PARDON AT ANY STAGE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS -- EVEN IN ADVANCE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS BEING INITIATED.

"AFTER YEARS OF BITTER CONTROVERSY AND DIVISIVE NATIONAL DEBATE, I HAVE BEEN ADVISED AND AM COMPELLED TO CONCLUDE THAT MANY MONTHS AND PERHAPS MORE YEARS HAVE TO PASS BEFORE RICHARD NIXON COULD OBTAIN A FAIR TRIAL IN A JURY IN ANY JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER GOVERNING DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT."

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:37 AED



206A

FORD 8-0

5TH ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX COURT."

FORD DID NOT MENTION ANY SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST NIXON, WHO DISCLOSED IN A JUNE 23, 1972, TRANSCRIPT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH HIS FORMER TOP AIDE H. R. HALDEMAN THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN THE WATERGATE COVERUP FROM THE OUTSET.

NOR WAS THERE ANY MENTION OF SPECIAL PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI WHO HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING THE NIXON CASE WITH A POSSIBLE VIEW TO BRINGING THE INQUIRY BEFORE A FEDERAL GRAND JURY.

THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT JAWORSKI AND NIXON'S NEWLY-HIRED LAWYER, HERBERT MILLER, A FORMER JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, MAY HAVE BEEN PLEA BARGAINING.

SOME MEMBER OF CONGRESS HAVE INDICATED THAT NIXON SHOULD MAKE SOME PUBLIC ADMISION OF GUILT BEFORE BEING GIVEN A TOTAL PARDON.

"TO PROCRASTINATE, TO AGONIZE, TO WAIT FOR A MORE FAVORABLE TURN OF EVENTS THAT MAY NEVER COME, OR MORE COMPELLING EXTERNAL PRESSURES THAT MAY AS WELL BE WRONG AS RIGHT, IS IN ITSELF A DECISION OF SORTS AND A WEAK AND POTENTIALLY COURSE FOR A PRESIDENT TO FOLLOW," FORD SAID.

MORE

UPI 09-08 11:46 AED

207A

FORD 8-9

5TH ADD FORD WASHINGTON 201A XXX SAID.

FORD SAID THAT AS HE SEE THE FACT, "THE FORMER PRESIDENT INSTEAD OF ENJOYING EQUAL TREATMENT WITH ANY OTHER CITIZEN ACCUSED OF VIOLATING THE LAW, WOULD BE CRUELLY AND EXCESSIVELY PENALIZED EITHER IN PRESERVING THE PRESUMPTION OF HIS INNOCENCE OR IN DETERMINING A SPEEDY DETERMINATION OF HIS GUILT IN ORDER TO REPAY A LEGAL DEBT TO SOCIETY."

209..

FORD 9-8

INSERT FORD WASHINGTON 201A AFTER 1ST PGH XXX OFFICE.

NIXON, MEANWHILE, ISSUED A STATEMENT FROM SAN CLEMENTE EXPRESSING "MY REGRET AND PAIN AT THE ANGUISH MY MISTAKES OVER WATERGATE HAVE CAUSED THE NATION..."

PICKUP 2ND PGH BONG THE ACTION CAME

UPI 09-08 12:08 PED



210A

FORD 9-8

INSERT FORD WASHINGTON 201A AFTER 4RD PGH XXX WHAT I DO."

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS ACTING TO PREVENT "PROLONGED AND DIVISIVE DEBATE" THAT WOULD RESULT FROM NIXON'S TRIAL AND BECAUSE "SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AND ACCUSATIONS HANG LIKE A SWORD ... THREATENING HIS HEALTH AS HE TRIES TO RESHAPE HIS LIFE" IN CALIFORNIA.

PICKUP 5TH PGH 201A: "RICHARD NIXON

UPI 09-08 12:10 PED

246

r lbylu vvyxx
Rockefeller-Ford-Nixon ADD 60
TARRYTOWN, N.Y. Rockefeller 232 add: news.

GOP National Chairman George Bush, named by Ford last week to head the U.S. mission in China, said the President "made the right call."

Bush, who is vacationing at his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine, added: "It has been my view all along the country would be better off with this behind us. I feel Nixon has paid a big price already."

1459pED 09-08

247

r lbylu veeev
Congressional Reaction ADD 260
UNDATED Congressional Reaction 237-229 add: law."

Sen. James Abourezk, D-S.D., said he was afraid that Ford's action "will confirm the feeling, widespread in this country, that there are two standards of justice - one for the powerful and the rich and one for everyone else."

U.S. Rep. Ben Blackburn, R-Ga., said he was "in agreement that President Nixon has suffered enough from what I understand that he has done . . . I think most people recognize that if the president Nixon erred, and he did make some bad judgement, it was due to an overzealousness to protect what he felt to be the security of the United States."

Sen. Roman Hruska, R-Neb., said Ford "is to be commended and respected for doing what he believes is right and in the best national interest."

Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn., described Ford's action as "the worst possible decision."

"No one wished the former president to go to jail," Mondale said, "but to grant a pardon for unspecified crimes and acts is unprecedented in American history and creates a spectacle of a two-track system. . . ."

Mondale said he was afraid that former Nixon aides convicted and jailed in connection with Watergate or awaiting trial would expect similar pardons.

Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, former GOP national chairman, said simply: "It's over. It's finished. He had the constitutional authority to do it. It wouldn't serve any purpose for me to comment now."

1504pED 09-08



r lbyllbylv
Bar - With Ford-Nixon 240

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. AP - James D. Fellers, the president of the American Bar Association, said Sunday he had "a very mixed reaction" to President Ford's granting of a full pardon to former President Nixon.

"I've been concerned as to whether the former president could receive a fair trial because of the attention and reaction given the matter," Fellers said. "Then again, I strongly believe he should be treated like anyone else, that he's certainly not above the law."

In granting the pardon, Ford said it would be months and perhaps years before Nixon could get a fair court trial for any offenses committed while in the White House.

Fellers, who became president of the ABA last month, said he felt "that it is in the best interest of the people and the country to have this whole thing put behind us."

"Now we can turn to problems facing us such as the economy, energy and the environment and put Watergate, Nixon and the disappointments of his career behind us."

At its convention in Honolulu, the ABA House of Delegates, the group's legislative body, adopted a resolution saying that no one should receive favored treatment under the law, "regardless of the position or status" of the individual.

The resolution did not mention Nixon by name, but was drafted in order to put the 185,000-member group on record on the question of possible immunity for Nixon from criminal prosecution.



2237

r lbylzyyveev

Congressional Reaction a229 Lead 400

By The Associated Press

Several Democratic congressmen accused President Ford on Sunday of setting a double standard of justice by granting former President Nixon a full pardon. Republicans generally felt Nixon had suffered enough from Watergate and said Ford's action was justified.

An exception to the GOP support of Ford was Sen. Edward Brooke of Massachusetts who was the first Republican senator to urge Nixon's resignation.

"President Ford's blanket pardon - without Mr. Nixon's full confession of his involvement in Watergate - is, in my judgement, a serious mistake," Brooke said.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., said Ford told him of his plans an hour before the public announcement. "It would be easy for me to criticize the President's judgement," Mansfield said. "I will not do so."

Assistant majority leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said Ford's action, "sets a double standard: one standard for the former President of the United States and another standard for everybody else."

Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen of Texas, the chairman of the Democratic campaign committee, called the pardon "a disturbing precedent for the country."

He said: "I wouldn't have done what President Ford did. I would have waited until all the evidence was in and acted on the basis of the evidence. I think history should record whether this man Nixon was guilty or not."

Sen. William E. Brock of Tennessee, who heads the Republican senatorial campaign committee, said he probably would have waited. He said Ford "has undoubtedly taken a very tough road and he's all by himself. . . . I'm reluctant to comment. I need a little more time."

The two men appeared on the CBS program "Face the Nation." Sen. John Tower, R-Tex., said Ford's action "lays to rest the whole Watergate matter. It enables us to focus our attention on issues of critical importance which confront the nation."

Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., said he had hoped Ford would have waited for the courts to work out the situation. "But the pardoning power is between the President and his conscience," Javits said. "Hence there is nothing further to be said or done about it except to press forward in the cases and with the reforms arising out of the tragedy of Watergate."

Sen Barry: 4th graf

1408pED 09-08

2240

r lbylu vczzc

Congressional Reaction INSERT

UNDATED Congressional Reaction lead a237 to update insert after 5th graf; else."

Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota, the 1972 Democratic presidential nominee whom Nixon defeated, said: "It has seemed to me that the central lesson of Watergate should be that no one stands above the rule of law. It is difficult to understand granting immunity to Mr. Nixon while committing his subordinates to prison."

"On the other hand, the Constitution clearly does give President Ford authority to grant reprieves and pardons. . . ."

Sen. Lloyd: 6th graf

1429pED 09-08



r lbyllbylqyyv

Congressional Reaction 470

By The Associated Press

Congressional reaction to President Ford's pardon of former President Nixon followed predictable political lines Sunday. Several Democrats said the action set a double standard of justice.

Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., said Ford told him of his plans an hour before the public announcement. "It would be easy for me to criticize the President's judgement," Mansfield said. "I will not do so."

Assistant majority leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said he was "greatly disappointed" in Ford's action. "I think this sets a double standard," Byrd said. "one standard for the former president of the United States and another standard for everybody else."

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., said Ford's decision "was the only decent and prudent course for him to follow." He noted that Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski "has made it clear that he doubted that former President Nixon could get a fair trial and I certainly agree with him on that."

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, said that pardons normally are not granted "until the accused is in jeopardy of punishment."

Muskie, a lawyer, was interviewed on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" and was asked whether he agreed with Ford's statement that it would be a long time before Nixon would be able to get a fair court trial. "No, I don't," he said. "I don't believe it's necessary to reach that judgement at this point."

Sen. George R. Aiken, R-Vt., who is retiring this year, said he believed Nixon "has been punished about as much as any man could be."

Aiken said Ford's action toward Nixon "will make it easier for him to give amnesty to those draft evaders who sincerely thought they were doing the right thing."

U.S. Rep. David W. Dennis, R-Ind., a member of the House Judiciary Committee who voted against all three articles of impeachment recommended by the panel before Nixon's resignation, said of that pardon: "Basically, I'm for it. . . . Probably, the President's acting now and getting the thing decided without letting it become a protracted subject of debate is a good move."

Sen. Edward Gurney, R-Fla., a member of the Senate Watergate Committee and strong Nixon supporter, said he completely agreed with Ford's action. He said the decision had to be made at this time or fairly soon because of the ongoing Watergate investigations.

"Without the former president's situation being solved, Watergate would have hung over us for a long time," said Gurney.

U.S. Rep. Tom Steed, D-Okla., disagreed. "I think he Ford is probably going to find that the action was a little bit premature," said Steed. "He's kind of getting the cart before the horse."

"I think there is more involved than how we feel about Mr. Nixon. There is the factor of public confidence - that everyone should be equal under the law."



13TH SUMMARY-TAKE 2

(WASHINGTON) -- CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S PARDON OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING POLITICAL LINES. SEVERAL DEMOCRATS SAID THE ACTION SET A DOUBLE STANDARD OF JUSTICE. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD REFUSED TO CRITICIZE THE PRESIDENT'S JUDGEMENT. ASSISTANT SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ROBERT BYRD OF WEST VIRGINIA SAID HE WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED IN FORD'S ACTION. THE FIRST REPUBLICAN TO REACT WAS ARIZONA SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER. THE ONE-TIME PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SAID FORD'S DECISION WAS THE ONLY DECENT AND PRUDENT COURSE FOR HIM TO FOLLOW. AND HE NOTED THAT SPECIAL PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI HAD MADE IT CLEAR HE DOUBTED NIXON COULD GET A FAIR TRIAL.

DEMOCRATIC SENATOR EDMUND MUSKIE, OF MAINE, SAID PARDONS NORMALLY ARE NOT GRANTED UNTIL THE ACCUSED IS IN JEOPARDY OF PUNISHMENT. AND MUSKIE TOLD A BROADCAST INTERVIEW (NBC-TV'S "MEET THE PRESS") HE DIDN'T THINK FORD SHOULD HAVE ISSUED A PARDON AT THIS POINT.

REPUBLICAN SENATOR GEORGE AIKEN OF VERMONT SAID HE BELIEVED NIXON "HAS BEEN PUNISHED ABOUT AS MUCH AS ANY MAN COULD BE." AIKEN ALSO SAID FORD'S ACTION TOWARD NIXON WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM TO GIVE AMNESTY TO THE DRAFT EVADERS WHO SINCERELY THOUGHT THEY WERE DOING THE RIGHT THING .

(TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK) -- VICE-PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE NELSON ROCKEFELLER SAYS PRESIDENT FORD'S PARDON OF NIXON WAS IN ROCKEFELLER'S TERMS "AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE, COMPASSION AND COURAGE." THE FORMER NEW YORK GOVERNOR SAID FORD'S ACTION, ALTHOUGH NOW CONTROVERSIAL, WILL IN THE LONG RUN "SPEED THE HEALING OF OUR NATION."

(MANDEL-FORD)

(ANNAPOLIS)--MARYLAND GOVERNOR MANDEL SAYS HE THINKS FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON SHOULD TELL THE WHOLE STORY OF WATERGATE NOW THAT HE HAS BEEN GRANTED A PARDON.
 L F MANDERESIDENTINIS PARDONAFORRNPROSISAMINGORE FEESMORNONGASDGNIS A FAMILY HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH.

MANDEL REACTED SAYING HE THINKS NIXON, NO LONGER FACING THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, HAS AN OBLIGATION TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE ENTIRE STORY OF WATERGATE SO THAT THE MATTER CAN BE, IN THE GOVERNOR'S WORDS, "PUT TO REST ONCE AND FOR ALL."

01:35PED 09-08-74

APB108

727

WITH PARDON-CHAIRMEN

(UNDATED) -- VIRGINIA STATE REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN RICHARD OBENSHAIN SAID THIS AFTERNOON THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S PARDON FOR FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON WAS A COURAGEOUS ACT. BUT STATE DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN JOSEPH FITZPATRICK SAID FORD ACTED PREMATURELY.

FITZPATRICKT SAID FROM HIS NORFOLK HOME THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NOW WILL NEVER KNOW ALL THE EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE CRIMES INVOLVING THE FORMER PRESIDENT. HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO LET THE JUDICIAL PROCESS TAKE ITS NATURAL COURSE. IF MR. NIXON WAS FOUND GUILTY, FITZPATRICK SAID, THEN PRESIDENT FORD COULD HAVE EXERCISED COMPASSION BY GRANTING A PARDON.

OBENSHAIN SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S OPINION THAT FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON HAD SUFFERED ENOUGH WAS A WIDELY ACCEPTED VIEW. OBENSHAIN SAID FROM HIS RICHMOND HOME THAT HE FELT THE COUNTRY WILL BE PLEASED AND RELIEVED THAT THIS PART OF THE LONG WATERGATE TRAUMA IS OVER.

01:48PED 09-03-74

APB109

419

APB090

176

BAR -- WITH FORD-NIXON (TWO TAKES)

(OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA) -- THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION-- JAMES FELLERS, SAID IN OKLAHOMA CITY HE HAD "A VERY MIXED REACTION" TO PRESIDENT FORD'S GRANTING OF A FULL PARDON TO FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON.

FELLERS SAID HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED AS TO WHETHER THE FORMER PRESIDENT COULD RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL BECAUSE OF THE ATTENTION AND REACTION GIVEN THE MATTER. BUT THE A-B-A PRESIDENT ADDED: "THEN AGAIN, I STRONGLY BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE ANYONE ELSE, THAT HE'S CERTAINLY NOT ABOVE THE LAW."

IN GRANTING THE PARDON, FORD SAID IT WOULD BE MONTHS AND PERHAPS YEARS BEFORE NIXON COULD GET A FAIR COURT TRIAL FOR ANY OFFENSES COMMITTED WHILE IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

12:57PED 09-08-74

A-B-A--WITH FORD-NIXON-TAKE 2

FELLERS, WHO BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE A-B-A LAST MONTH, SAID HE FELT "THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY TO HAVE THIS WHOLE THING PUT BEHIND US.

HE SAID, "NOW WE CAN TURN TO PROBLEMS FACING US SUCH AS THE ECONOMY, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUT WATERGATE, NIXON AND THE DISAPPOINTMENTS OF HIS CAREER BEHIND US."

AT ITS CONVENTION IN HONOLULU, THE A-B-A HOUSE OF DELEGATES, THE GROUP'S LEGISLATIVE BODY, ADOPTED A RESOLUTION SAYING THAT NO ONE SHOULD RECEIVE FAVORED TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW, "REGARDLESS OF THE POSITION OR STATUS" OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

THE RESOLUTION DID NOT MENTION NIXON BY NAME, BUT WAS DRAFTED IN ORDER TO PUT THE 185,000-MEMBER GROUP ON RECORD ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE IMMUNITY FOR NIXON FROM CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

APB101

725

ITH PARDON-MILLER

(RICHMOND, VIRGINIA) -- VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL ANDREW MILLER SAID PRESIDENT FORD'S PARDON OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON TODAY MAY HAVE BEEN TOO SUDDEN FOR THE LONG-RANGE NATIONAL INTEREST. MILLER SAID CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE THE DISPOSITION OF DIFFERENCE CASES IN DIFFERENT WAYS. BUT HE SAID NO ONE SHOULD BE REGARDED AS ABOVE THE LAW.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THE PUBLIC SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI BEFORE PRESIDENT FORD TOOK TODAY'S ACTION. MILLER HAS SAID PREVIOUSLY HE DIDN'T FAVOR A PUBLIC TRIAL OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT.

MILLER SAID THIS AFTERNOON THAT NIXON SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN A CHANCE TO MAKE WHATEVER ADMISSIONS WERE INDICATED IN LIGHT OF THE REPORT COMPLIED BY JAWORSKI AND HIS STAFF. AS MILLER PUT IT, ''IN THE ABSENCE OF A REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL PROESCUTOR, MANY THOUGHTFUL AMERICANS ARE GOING TO BE PERTURBED THAT ALL THE FACTS WERE NOT LAID ON THE TABLE FOR PUBLIC CONSIDERATION BEFORE PRESIDENT FORD MADE HIS DECISION.''

01:33PED 09-08-74

APB104

917

(FORD-PRESSMAN)

(BALTIMORE)--BALTIMORE COMPTROLLER HYMAN PRESSMAN REACTED THIS MORNING TO NEWS THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS GRANTED FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON A FULL PARDON FOR WATERGATE OFFENSES.

PRESSMAN SAID HE APPROVES OF PRESIDENT FORD'S ACTION, IN PRESSMAN'S WORDS, "CONSIDERING MR. NIXON'S UNPRECEDENTED ACHIEVEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, CONSIDERING THE TREMENDOUS PRICE HE PAID BEFORE STEPPING DOWN FROM THE PRESIDENCY AND CONSIDERING THAT HE THEREBY PREVENTED AN AGONIZING DIVISIVENESS IN OUR COUNTRY, I AM GLAD THAT PRESIDENT FORD DECIDED NOT TO PICK THE CARCASS."

FORD SAID HE THOUGHT NIXON AND HIS FAMILY HAD SUFFERED ENOUGH.

01:39 PED 09-08-74

APB105

187

2254

r lbylzyyv v
With Ford 80

WASHINGTON AP - The presidential power to grant pardons is expressed in the Constitution in 20 words contained in Article II, Section 2.

The provision says:

“He shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.”

Article II itself delineates the power of the President, and includes both the oath to “faithfully execute the Office,” and the admonition that “he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.”

1350pED 09-08

2236

u lbylzyyrcyyaWA

URGENT

Nixon-Files

WASHINGTON AP - Former President Richard M. Nixon has agreed that all his White House files will be preserved for possible use in court during the next three years.

But the agreement Nixon reached with President Ford's administration also allows him to destroy his controversial Watergate tape recordings five years from now.

The agreement concerning access to and preservation of Nixon's White House files was signed by Nixon Friday. It had been negotiated as Ford moved toward granting Nixon a full pardon for any acts Nixon committed during his five years as President.

cr202ped sept 8

2224

u lbyllbylu vWA

URGENT

Ford-Nixon Lead 500

By FRANK CORMIER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP - President Ford granted former President Richard M. Nixon "a full, free and absolute pardon," Sunday for all "offenses against the United States," while Nixon was president.

"I feel that Richard Nixon and his loved ones have suffered enough," Ford said in a short address before reporters and a single television camera in his Oval Office.

Nixon said, in a statement dictated by a secretary at San Clemente, Calif., "I can see more clearly now that I was wrong in not acting more decisively and more forthrightly in dealing with Watergate."

"No words can describe the depths of my regret and pain at the anguish my mistakes over Watergate have caused the nation and the presidency - a nation I so deeply love and an institution I so greatly respect," he said.

Reading a formal statement, Ford declared:

"My conscience tells me clearly and certainly that I cannot prolong the bad dreams that continue to reopen a chapter that is closed. My conscience tells me that only I as President, have the constitutional power to firmly shut and seal this book."

"It is common knowledge that serious allegations and accusations hang like a sword over our former President's head and threaten his health as he tries to reshape his life, a great part of which was spent in the service of this country and by the mandate of its people," the President said.

Nixon, in his statement, said: "I know that many fair-minded people believe that my motivations and actions in the Watergate affair were intentionally self-serving and illegal. I now understand how my own mistakes and misjudgments have contributed to that belief and seemed to support it. This burden is the heaviest one to bear."

Ford signed: 7th graf a203-204

cr1256ped sept 8

2225

u lbyllbylwyyfWA

URGENT

Ford-Nixon Lead ADD 100

WASHINGTON Ford-Nixon Lead A224 add: bear.

Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski was informed of the President's decision early Sunday morning by Ford's counsel, Philip Buchen.

"We really took no part in the President's decision except to be informed of it," said a Jaworski spokesman, John Barker.

"We were informed about it; obviously we accept it."

Barker said he could not say whether the prosecutor had informed the President what, if any, charges were to be brought against Nixon or whether advance word of such charges prompted Ford's announcement.

Jaworski was in Washington Sunday, but was not reachable directly for comment.

Ford signed: 7th graf a203-204

cr1256ped sept 8

2203

u lbylc zczzyrWX

BULLETIN

Ford-Nixon

WASHINGTON AP - President Ford Sunday granted former President Richard M. Nixon "a full, free and absolute pardon" for all "offenses against the United States" during the period of his presidency.
cr1120sed sept 8

2204

u lbylc zczu VWX

URGENT

WASHINGTON Ford-Nixon adds: presidency.
Speaking before newsmen and a single television camera in his Oval Office, Ford said, "I feel that Richard Nixon and his loved ones have suffered enough."

In a formal statement which he read, Ford declared: "My conscience tells me clearly and certainly that I cannot prolong the bad dreams that continue to reopen a chapter that is closed. My conscience tells me that only I, as President, have the constitutional power to firmly shut and seal this book."
Ford departed from his prepared statement to say that the situation Nixon found himself in prior to the broad pardon "threatens his health."

As he read the statement, Ford said, "It is common knowledge that serious allegations and accusations hang like a sword over our former President's head and threatens his health as he tries to reshape his life, a great part of which was spent in the service of this country and by the mandate of its people."

Ford signed a formal proclamation of pardon in the presence of newsmen and photographers.

In explaining the reasons for his action, which had not been anticipated at this time, the President said months and perhaps years would pass before Nixon could get a fair court trial.

MORE

cr1126aed sept 8



2205

u lbylc zczwyfWX

URGENT

WASHINGTON Ford-Nixon 2nd add: trial.

He went on:

"During this long period of delay and potential litigation, ugly passions would again be aroused and our people would again be polarized in their opinions and the credibility of our free institutions of government would again be challenged at home and abroad."

He went on to quote directly from the operative section of his pardon proclamation, saying:

"Now, therefore, I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States, pursuant to the pardon power conferred upon me by Article II, section 2, of the Constitution, have granted and by these presents do grant a full, free, and absolute pardon unto Richard Nixon for all offenses against the United States which he, Richard Nixon, has committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 20, 1969, through August 9, 1974."

In speaking, Ford erroneously changed the January date to July, but the proclamation itself referred back to the date of Nixon's first Inaugural.

After reciting the constitutional language, Ford paused in his address, picked up a blue and silver felt-tipped pen lying on the desk, and swiftly signed his name to the proclamation, which he carried in a manila folder to the desk temporarily covered with a brown felt cloth.

MORE

cr1131aed sept 8

2900
u lbylczzccyydWX

URGENT

WASHINGTON Ford-Nixon 3rd add: cloth.
Among the first reaction was a statement from Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., who said:
"The President's decision was not an easy one but in my opinion it was the only decent and prudent course for him to follow."
"Mr. Jaworski has made it clear that he doubted that former President Nixon could get a fair trial and I certainly agree with him on that."

Ford said he had sought guidance "and searched my own conscience with special diligence to determine the right thing for me to do" about Nixon and his "loyal wife and family."

He continued:

"There is an American tragedy in which we all have played a part. It can go on and on and on, or someone must write 'the end' to it."

"I have concluded that only I can do that. And if I can, I must."

MORE

By FRANK CORMIER
Associated Press Writer
cr1136asd sept 8

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URGENT

WASHINGTON Ford-Nixon 4th add: must."
Ford said he found "no historic or legal precedents to which I can turn in this matter," because never before had a President resigned his office, at a time when he faced potential criminal prosecution.

While saying, "I deeply believe in equal justice for all Americans, whatever their station or former station," Ford said he concluded that Nixon "would be cruelly and excessively penalized either in preserving the presumption of his innocence or in obtaining a speedy determination of his guilt in order to repay a legal debt to society."

The month-old chief executive said at one point:

"But it is not the ultimate fate of Richard Nixon that most concerns me - though surely it deeply troubles every decent and every compassionate person - but my concern is the immediate future of this great country. . . . As President, my primary concern must always be the greatest good of all the people of the United States, whose servant I am."

In his proclamation, Ford said that "as a result of certain acts or omissions occurring before his resignation," Nixon had become "liable to possible indictment and trial for offenses against the United States."

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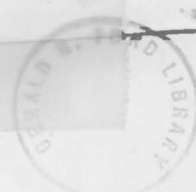
URGENT

WASHINGTON Ford-Nixon 5th add: states."
He expressed the belief that such a trial, if necessary, "could not fairly begin until a year or more has elapsed."
He said that would mean that "the tranquillity to which the nation has been restored by the events of recent weeks would be irreparably lost by the prospects of bringing to trial the President of the United States."

He added:

"The prospects of such trial will cause a divisive debate over the propriety of exposing a man to the stigma and degradation a man who has already served a substantial penalty of relinquishing the high office of President of the United States."

Ford acted one day after taking the presidential oath as Nixon's successor.
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URGENT

Nixon

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. AP - Former President Nixon said Sunday "I can see more clearly now that I was wrong in not acting more decisively and more forthrightly in dealing with Watergate."

His comments came in reaction to news that President Ford granted him a "full, free and absolute pardon" for any offenses against the United States he might have committed while in the White House.

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Nixon add

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. Nixon ag08 add: House. 270

Ronald Ziegler, Nixon's press secretary while he was in the White House, telephoned news media in a conference call and a secretary at San Clemente read a statement from Nixon.

The former president said: "Looking back on what is still in my mind a complex and confusing maze of events, decisions, pressures and personalities, one thing I can see clearly now is that I was wrong in not acting more decisively and more forthrightly in dealing with Watergate, particularly when it reached the stage of judicial proceedings and grew from a political scandal into a national tragedy. No words can describe the depths of my regret and pain at the anguish my mistakes over Watergate have caused the nation and the presidency - a nation I so deeply love and an institution I so greatly respect."

The call from San Clemente came less than 10 minutes after Ford's action was first reported.

The statement opened: "I have been informed that President Ford has granted me a full and absolute pardon for any charges which might be brought against me for actions taken during the time I was President of the United States."

"I know that many fair-minded people believe that my motivations and actions in the Watergate affair were intentionally self-serving and illegal. I now understand how my own mistakes and misjudgments have contributed to that belief and seemed to support it," Nixon said. "This burden is the heaviest one of all to bear."

"That the way I tried to deal with Watergate was the wrong way is a burden I shall bear for every day of the life that is left to me."

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URGENT

Nixon lead a208

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. AP - Former President Nixon said Sunday he was wrong in the way he tried to deal with Watergate and said the error was "a burden I shall bear for every day of life that is left to me."

Nixon, speaking after President Ford granted him a full pardon for any offenses he might have committed while in the White House, said he should have dealt "more decisively and more forthrightly" with Watergate.

It was his strongest statement to date about Watergate and his mistakes in connection with it. In his resignation speech Aug. 8, Nixon said he regretted any injuries done in Watergate and related scandals, but admitted no misdeeds, only misjudgements which he said he once believed to be in the national interest.

Ford, acting exactly one month after Nixon's resignation, announced in Washington that he was granting the former president a "full, free and absolute pardon" for any offenses against the United States he might have committed while in the White House.

Ronald: 3rd graf which first graf a210



Nixon 2nd lead a214

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. AP - Former President Nixon said Sunday that he was wrong in the way he tried to deal with Watergate and said the error was "a burden I shall have to bear for every day of the life that is left to me."

Nixon issued a statement in response to President Ford's action granting him a full pardon for any offenses he might have committed while in the White House. It was his strongest statement to date about Watergate.

The former president said: "In accepting this pardon, I hope that his compassionate act will contribute to lifting the burden of Watergate from our country.

"Here in California, my perspective on Watergate is quite different than it was while I was embattled in the midst of the controversy, and while I was still subject to the unrelenting daily demands of the presidency itself."

In his resignation speech Aug. 8, Nixon said he regretted any injuries done in Watergate and related scandals, but admitted no misdeeds, only misjudgements which he said he once believed to be in the national interest.

Ford: 4th graf a214

1221pED 09-68

-BULLETIN- (AP)

NIXON PARDON (TOPS)

(SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA) -- FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON SAID TODAY
 "I CAN SEE MORE CLEARLY NOW THAT I WAS WRONG IN NOT ACTING MORE
 DECISIVELY AND MORE FORTHRIGHTLY IN DEALING WITH WATERGATE."

HIS COMMENTS CAME IN REACTION TO NEWS THAT PRESIDENT FORD GRANTED
 HIM A "FULL, FREE AND ABSOLUTE PARDON" FOR ANY OFFENSES AGAINST
 THE UNITED STATES HE MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED WHILE IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

11:52AED 09-08-74

APB070

161

WITH FORD-NIXON

PRESIDENT FORD EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT A TRIAL INVOLVING NIXON,
 IF NECESSARY, "COULD NOT FAIRLY BEGIN UNTIL A YEAR OR MORE HAS
 ELAPSED."

HE SAID THAT WOULD MEAN THAT "THE TRANQUILLITY TO WHICH THIS NATION
 HAS BEEN RESTORED BY THE EVENTS OF RECENT WEEKS COULD BE IRREPARABLY
 LOST BY THE PROSPECTS OF BRINGING TO TRIAL A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE
 UNITED STATES."

HE ADDED:

"THE PROSPECTS OF SUCH TRIAL WILL CAUSE PROLONGED AND DIVISIVE
 DEBATE OVER THE PROPRIETY OF EXPOSING TO FURTHER PUNISHMENT AND
 DEGRADATION A MAN WHO HAS ALREADY PAID THE UNPRECEDENTED PENALTY OF
 RELINQUISHING THE HIGHEST ELECTIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES."

FORD ACTED ONE DAY SHORT OF A MONTH AFTER TAKING THE PRESIDENTIAL
 OATH AS NIXON'S SUCCESSOR.

12:02PED 09-08-74

APB059

154

-BULLETIN- (AP)

(WASHINGTON) -- PRESIDENT FORD TODAY GRANTED FORMER
PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON "A FULL, FREE AND ABSOLUTE
PARDON" FOR ALL "OFFENSES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES"
DURING THE PERIOD OF HIS PRESIDENCY.

11:25 AED 09-08-74

FORD-NIXON-BULLETIN-TAKE 2

SPEAKING BEFORE NEWSMEN AND A SINGLE TELEVISION CAMERA IN HIS OVAL OFFICE, FORD SAID: "I FEEL THAT RICHARD NIXON AND HIS LOVED ONES HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH."

IN A FORMAL STATEMENT WHICH HE READ, FORD DECLARED:

"MY CONSCIENCE TELLS ME CLEARLY AND CERTAINLY THAT I CANNOT PROLONG THE BAD DREAMS THAT CONTINUE TO REOPEN A CHAPTER THAT IS CLOSED. MY CONSCIENCE TELLS ME THAT ONLY I, AS PRESIDENT, HAVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL POWER TO FIRMLY SHUT AND SEAL THIS BOOK."

FORD DEPARTED FROM HIS PREPARED STATEMENT TO SAY THAT THE SITUATION NIXON FOUND HIMSELF IN PRIOR TO THE BROAD PARDON "THREATENS HIS HEALTH."

11:34AED 09-03-74

FORD-NIXON-BULLETIN-TAKE 3

AS HE READ THE STATEMENT, FORD SAID, "IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AND ACCUSATIONS HANG LIKE A SWORD OVER OUR FORMER PRESIDENT'S HEAD AND THREATENS HIS HEALTH AS HE TRIES TO RESHAPE HIS LIFE, A GREAT PART OF WHICH WAS SPENT IN THE SERVICE OF THIS COUNTRY AND BY THE MANDATE OF ITS PEOPLE."

FORD SIGNED A FORMAL PROCLAMATION OF PARDON IN THE PRESENCE OF NEWSMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS.

IN EXPLAINING THE REASONS FOR HIS ACTION, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN ANTICIPATED AT THIS TIME, THE PRESIDENT SAID MONTHS AND PERHAPS YEARS WOULD PASS BEFORE NIXON COULD GET A FAIR COURT TRIAL.

11:36AED 09-08-74

FORD-NIXON-BULLETIN-TAKE 4

FORD'S STATEMENT CONTINUED:

"DURING THIS LONG PERIOD OF DELAY AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION, UGLY PASSIONS WOULD AGAIN BE AROUSED AND OUR PEOPLE WOULD AGAIN BE POLARIZED IN THEIR OPINIONS AND THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR FREE INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD AGAIN BE CHALLENGED AT HOME AND ABROAD."

HE WENT ON TO QUOTE DIRECTLY FROM THE OPERATIVE SECTION OF HIS PARDON PROCLAMATION, SAYING:

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, PURSUANT TO THE PARDON POWER CONFERRED UPON ME BY ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, OF THE CONSTITUTION, HAVE GRANTED AND BY THESE PRESENTS DO GRANT A FULL, FREE, AND ABSOLUTE PARDON UNTO RICHARD NIXON FOR ALL OFFENSES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES WHICH HE, RICHARD NIXON, HAS COMMITTED OR MAY HAVE COMMITTED OR TAKEN PART IN DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 20TH, 1969, THROUGH AUGUST NINTH, 1974."

IN SPEAKING, FORD ERRONEOUSLY CHANGED THE JANUARY DATE TO JULY, BUT THE PROCLAMATION ITSELF REFERRED BACK TO THE DATE OF NIXON'S FIRST INAUGURAL.

AFTER RECITING THE CONSTITUTIONAL LANGUAGE, FORD PAUSED IN HIS ADDRESS, PICKED UP A BLUE AND SILVER FELT-TIPPED PEN LYING ON THE DESK, AND SWIFTLY SIGNED HIS NAME TO THE PROCLAMATION, WHICH HE CARRIED IN A MANILA FOLDER TO THE DESK TEMPORARILY COVERED WITH A BROWN FELT CLOTH.

11:47AED 09-08-74

NIXON-FORD-BULLETIN-TAKE 5

AMONG THE FIRST REACTION WAS A STATEMENT FROM SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER, WHO SAID:

"THE PRESIDENTS DECISION WAS NOT AN EASY ONE BUT IN MY OPINION IT WAS THE ONLY DECENT AND PRUDENT COURSE FOR HIM TO FOLLOW.

"MR. JAWORSKI HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DOUBTED THAT FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON COULD GET A FAIR TRIAL AND I CERTAINLY AGREE WITH HIM ON THAT."

FORD SAID HE HAD SOUGHT GUIDANCE "AND SEARCHED MY OWN CONSCIENCE WITH SPECIAL DILIGENCE TO DETERMINE THE RIGHT THING FOR ME TO DO" ABOUT NIXON AND HIS "LOYAL WIFE AND FAMILY."

HE CONTINUED:

"THEIRS IS AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY IN WHICH WE ALL HAVE PLAYED A PART. IT CAN GO ON AND ON AND ON, OR SOMEONE MUST WRITE 'THE END' TO IT.

"I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ONLY I CAN DO THAT. AND IF I CAN, I MUST."

11:50AED 09-08-74

NIXON STATEMENT-TAKE 2

RONALD ZIEGLER, NIXON'S PRESS SECRETARY WHILE HE WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE, TELEPHONED NEWS MEDIA IN A CONFERENCE CALL AND A SECRETARY AT SAN CLEMENTE READ A STATEMENT FROM NIXON.

THE FORMER PRESIDENT SAID: "LOOKING BACK ON WHAT IS STILL IN MY MIND A COMPLEX AND CONFUSING MAZE OF EVENTS, DECISIONS, PRESSURES AND PERSONALITIES, ONE THING I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW IS THAT I WAS WRONG IN NOT ACTING MORE DECISIVELY AND MORE FORTHRIGHTLY IN DEALING WITH WATERGATE, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT REACHED THE STAGE OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AND GREW FROM A POLITICAL SCANDAL INTO A NATIONAL TRAGEDY. NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE THE DEPTHS OF MY REGRET AND PAIN AT THE ANGUISH MY MISTAKES OVER WATERGATE HAVE CAUSED THE NATION AND THE PRESIDENCY -- A NATION I SO DEEPLY LOVE AND AN INSTITUTION I SO GREATLY RESPECT."

THE CALL FROM SAN CLEMENTE CAME LESS THAN 10 MINUTES AFTER FORD'S ACTION WAS FIRST REPORTED.

THE STATEMENT OPENED: "I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS GRANTED ME A FULL AND ABSOLUTE PARDON FOR ANY CHARGES WHICH MIGHT BE BROUGHT AGAINST ME FOR ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE TIME I WAS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES."

"I KNOW THAT MANY FAIR-MINDED PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT MY MOTIVATIONS AND ACTIONS IN THE WATERGATE AFFAIR WERE INTENTIONALLY SELF-SERVING AND ILLEGAL. I NOW UNDERSTAND HOW MY OWN MISTAKES AND MISJUDGEMENTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THAT BELIEF AND SEEMED TO SUPPORT IT," NIXON SAID. "THIS BURDEN IS THE HEAVIEST ONE OF ALL TO BEAR."

"THAT THE WAY I TRIED TO DEAL WITH WATERGATE WAS THE WRONG WAY IS A BURDEN I SHALL BEAR FOR EVERY DAY OF THE LIFE THAT IS LEFT TO ME."

13TH SUMMARY-TAKE 3

THIS JUST IN . . .

(WASHINGTON) -- FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON HAS AGREED THAT ALL HIS WHITE HOUSE FILES WILL BE PRESERVED FOR POSSIBLE USE IN COURT DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS. BUT THE AGREEMENT NIXON REACHED WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S ADMINISTRATION ALSO ALLOWS HIM TO DESTROY HIS CONTROVERSIAL WATERGATE TAPE RECORDINGS FIVE YEARS FROM NOW.

THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING ACCESS TO AND PRESERVATION OF NIXON'S WHITE HOUSE FILES WAS SIGNED BY NIXON FRIDAY. IT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED AS FORD MOVED TOWARD GRANTING NIXON A FULL PARDON FOR ANY ACTS NIXON COMMITTED DURING HIS FIVE YEARS AS PRESIDENT.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, JAMES FELLERS, SAYS HE HAD "A VERY MIXED REACTION" TO PRESIDENT FORD'S GRANTING A FULL PARDON TO NIXON. SPEAKING IN OKLAHOMA CITY TODAY, FELLERS SAID HE, TOO, HAD BEEN CONCERNED AS TO WHETHER NIXON COULD GET A FAIR TRIAL. BUT HE ALSO SAYS HE BELIEVES THE FORMER PRESIDENT SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE ANYONE ELSE AND THAT HE'S NOT ABOVE THE LAW.

-13TH-FIVE MINUTE SUMMARY-

HERE IS THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS:

(WASHINGTON) -- SAYING HE FEELS RICHARD NIXON AND HIS LOVED ONES HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH, PRESIDENT FORD TODAY GRANTED THE FORMER PRESIDENT A FULL, FREE AND ABSOLUTE PARDON. THE PARDON RELEASES NIXON FROM ALL "OFFENSES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES" WHILE HE WAS PRESIDENT. FORD ANNOUNCED THE PARDON IN A SHORT ADDRESS BEFORE REPORTERS AND A SINGLE TELEVISION CAMERA IN HIS OVAL OFFICE AT THE WHITE HOUSE. UPON HEARING OF HIS PARDON, NIXON ISSUED A STATEMENT FROM HIS HOME IN SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA. IN IT, HE SAID HE CAN NOW SEE HE WAS WRONG IN NOT ACTING MORE DECISIVELY AND MORE FORTHRIGHTLY IN DEALING WITH WATERGATE.

NIXON'S STATEMENT GOES ON TO SAY "NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE THE DEPTHS" OF HIS REGRET AND PAIN AT THE ANGUISH HIS MISTAKES OVER WATERGATE HAVE CAUSED THE NATION AND THE PRESIDENCY.

SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI WAS INFORMED OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION EARLY TODAY BY FORD'S COUNSEL, PHILIP BUCHEN (BYOO'-KEN) A SPOKEMAN FOR JAWORSKI, JOHN BARKER, SAID HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE PROSECUTOR HAD TOLD FORD WHAT, IF ANY, CHARGES WERE TO BE BROUGHT AGAINST NIXON OR WHETHER ADVANCE WORD OF SUCH CHARGES HAD PROMPTED FORD'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

JAWORSKI IS IN WASHINGTON TODAY, BUT HAS NOT BEEN REACHABLE DIRECTLY FOR COMMENT.

02:06PED 09-08-74