

**The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “Nixon Pardon - Acceptance Statement” of the Benton L. Becker Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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## STATEMENT.

I have been informed that President Ford has granted me a full and ~~unconditional~~ <sup>absolute</sup> pardon for any charges which might be brought against me for actions taken during the time I was President of the United States. <sup>in</sup> ~~I~~ <sup>ing</sup> accept this pardon, and I hope that <sup>his compassionate act</sup> ~~it~~ will contribute to lifting the burden of Watergate from our country.

Here in California, my perspective on Watergate is quite different and ~~much clearer~~ 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.

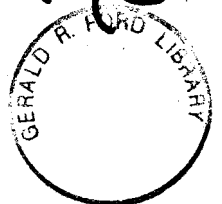
Looking back, ~~the~~ one thing I can see clearly now is that I was wrong in not acting more decisively and more forthrightly in dealing with Watergate, particularly when it reached the stage of judicial proceedings and grew from a political scandal into a national tragedy.



No words can describe the depth 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 <sup>and an institution I so greatly honor.</sup> ~~and honor, and an institution~~ which I have always tried to serve to the best of my ability. I always did what I thought best at the time, and the fact that what I did ~~proved to be wrong~~ is a burden I shall bear for every day of the life that is left to me.

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 ~~in handling Watergate~~ have contributed to that belief and seemed to support it. This burden ~~of disbelief by honest men and women~~ 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.



President Ford's compassionate action will, I trust, prevent the unique and unusual circumstances of Watergate from establishing a disastrous precedent regarding the treatment of former Presidents --- a precedent which would perpetuate the tragedy of Watergate on down all the years of America's great and hopeful future.



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FROM: Ann Grier

TO: Connie Girard

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WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM



San Clemente, California

STATEMENT BY FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

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. 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 embroiled in the midst of the controversy, and while I was still subject to the unrelenting daily demands of the Presidency itself.

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 depth 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.

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 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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Conrad  
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STATEMENT.

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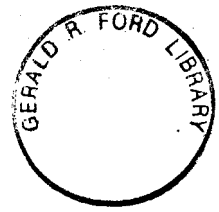
~~(all that has happened)~~

Here in California, my perspective on Watergate is quite different and much clearer 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.

(on what is still on my mind an almost impenetrable tangle of events, decisions, pressures and personalities.)

Looking back, the 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.

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