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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *by*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1974

WJ

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *W*

FROM:

TOM C. KOROLOGOS *TK*

SUBJECT:

Pardon Reactions from Senators
Packwood, Thurmond and Cook

The following three Senators have called me this afternoon to ask me to convey to you their feelings on the pardon of other Watergate people:

Senator Bob Packwood (R-Oreg):

"I sure hope the President doesn't pardon everybody. My mail is 10-1 against the Nixon pardon. To pardon the rest would compound the sin of the first pardon and make a worse burden for us to carry than if Nixon were President."

Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC):

"I think that the President should consider each pardon case on its own individual merits--sort of like he is suggesting we handle the Vietnam amnesty/deserter issue. A guy like Liddy who planned the whole thing shouldn't receive the same considerations as someone on the fringes who got caught up in Watergate. Perhaps the safest course for the President would be for him to appoint a blue-ribbon commission of distinguished citizens to make recommendations on the matter to him. That way, others could share the burden of the decision."

Senator Marlow Cook (R-Ky):

"My gawd what are you going to do to me next? Here I've got Wendell Ford on the run in Kentucky and Jerry Ford has me on the run up in Washington. Every time I come back from a speech I shudder at what the newsmen are going to hit me with next. The Nixon pardon won't hurt, really; but why should the President fool around with the pardon

of everybody else...just now? Doesn't he have any sense of timing?
There are a bunch of us in the middle of election campaigns and a
blanket pardon for everybody just kills us."

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *def.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: William E. Timmons *BT*

SUBJECT: Pardons

grr-1

Senator Hugh Scott (R-Pa) called tonight to report Senate Republican reaction to the announcement out of the Press Office that you were considering pardons for Watergate defendants.

Scott conducted an informal poll among some conservatives and liberal GOP Members. The conclusion was a unanimous, bitter feeling against any pardons in advance of September 30 trial. It would appear the President is whitewashing the Watergate, they say. This included Buckley, Helms, Packwood, etc.

Hugh reported no enthusiasm for pardoning those now in jail, but some might swallow that if absolutely necessary.

Summing up, Scott urges you to go very slow on this volatile issue.

THE WHITE HOUSE

INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: William E. Timmons *for*

SUBJECT: Pardons

WR 9

Senator Harold Hughes (D-Iowa) called today to comment on what he perceives as a trial balloon statement today on others involved in Watergate. Hughes believes the best solution would be:

- Commute sentences of those now in prison to time already served.
- Consider pardons on individual basis, depending on merits.
- Allow current trials to proceed, but hold option to grant clemency after convictions and sentencing.

Senator Hughes feels this would be fair, orderly and not disruptive of the legal procedure.

I told Hughes that Al Quie had called with a similar message and the Senator said they had discussed it.