Nixon Quits High Court Bar Group

Former President Nixon's resignation from the Supreme Court bar was accepted yesterday by the court. It was submitted June 13.

In a brief order, the court directed that his name be stricken from the roll of law-yers admitted to practice before the nation's highest tribunal.

Justices William O. Douglas and William E. Rehnquist did not participate in the order. Douglas has been absent while he recovers from a stroke. Rehnquist is a former member of the Nixon administration.

The other seven justices acted in response to a letter sent from the Nixon estate, La Casa Pacifica, in San Clemente, Calif., on June 10 and handed to the clerk of the court June 13 by Raymond G. Larroca of Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin, a Washington law firm.

The letter said, "Not having practiced law for several years, and not intending to practice law in the future, I desire to and herby resign from the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, of which I am currently a member."

The resignation eliminates the possibility of disbarment proceedings before the high court that could be an outgrowth of Nixon's involvement in the Watergate scandal. The pardon he received from President Ford a month after his resignation last Aug. 9 applied only to criminal penalties arising from his activities as President and does not protect him from disbarment.

The former President argued only one case before the court in his 28 years as a member of the court's bar and lost it. He represented a family in an invasion of privacy suit against Life magazine.