

Did Nixon Sign Guilt Admission Before Pardon?

OLEAN, N.Y. (UPI) — Former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller testified in a deposition on the Attica prison riot that former President Richard Nixon had signed a "document of admission" before Gerald Ford pardoned him, a New York lawyer says.

Attorney Joseph Dwyer said yesterday Rockefeller made the assertion last November while being questioned for a lawsuit brought by the father of an inmate who was killed in the riot, but that Rockefeller later changed the testimony.

Rockefeller was being closely questioned about consideration he had given, as governor, to granting amnesty or commutation for rioters, Dwyer said.

He said he asked Rockefeller if the Nixon pardon was not an example of commutation or pardon before indictment.

Dwyer said Rockefeller responded: "...he (Dwyer) ought to, just for the record, note that Mr. Nixon signed a document and that commutation didn't take effect until he signed an admission. . . ."

Dwyer said Rockefeller later reviewed his testimony and changed it, in his own handwriting, to read: "...he ought to, just for the record, note that Mr. Nixon made a statement and that commutation didn't take effect until he made the statement. . . ."

Dwyer filed edited transcripts of Rockefeller's pretrial testimony yesterday with U.S. District Judge John Curtin in Buffalo.

"The Rockefeller testimony runs counter to everything that has been reported regarding the pardon," Dwyer said. "Namely, that no such admission was ever made by the former president."