

# Pardon Backlash *F Post 9/10/74* Hits White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — The backlash of President Ford's unconditional pardon of Richard M. Nixon hit the White House Monday, abruptly ending the political tranquility that marked the President's first month in office.

The White House said its switchboard still was swamped with telephone calls more than 24 hours after Ford's announcement, with the early 2½ to 1 disapproval rate leveling to 50-50.

Ford was greeted with a spattering of protest signs and boos en route to a speech in Pittsburgh. In Washington, Democratic senators took the Senate floor to denounce the pardon decision.

The No. 3 man in the office of the special Watergate prosecutor's office, counsel Philip Lacovara, resigned, saying "recent developments" hastened his departure, and the foreman of the Watergate cover-up grand jury said reactions among the jurors is "disappointment, dismay and outrage."

The foreman, Vladimir Pregelj, said "due process of law should have taken its course." The grand jury is the one that voted last February to name the former president an unindicted co-conspirator.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., whose Senate Watergate Committee delved deeply into

the Watergate affair a year ago, called the pardon "inexpedient, incompatible with good government (and) a bad precedent for the future."

Enroute back from the Pittsburgh speech, a White House spokesman said the in-house activities that led to Ford's dramatic announcement Sunday had occupied so much of the President's time that he had to postpone a decision on conditional amnesty for Vietnam-era deserters and draft resisters.