

Post 9-10-74
Reaction

Continues On Pardon

President Ford continued to get fallout yesterday from his decision to give former President Nixon a "full, free and absolute pardon."

Rep. Jack Brinkley (D-Ga.) will ask President Ford for an "absolute and complete pardon" for former Army Lt. William Calley who is serving a 10-year prison sentence for the murder of South Vietnamese civilians at Mylai, a spokesman for Brinkley said.

Bob Fort, press aide for Brinkley, said the congressman would seek the pardon in light of the decision on Mr. Nixon.

In other reactions to the pardoning:

A judge in Grand Forks, N.D., freed two prisoners sentenced to jail on traffic charges.

In Sacramento, California Attorney General Evelle Younger said Mr. Nixon still could face possible state criminal prosecution.

• Raoul Berger, noted constitutional law historian at Harvard, said the Constitution gives a President the power to grant a pardon both before and after conviction. "But," he added, "I share the view of many who are outraged by this."

• Another expert on consti-

titutional matters, Philip D. Kurland of the University of Chicago, writing for UPI, said, "There is a serious constitutional question about the validity of the Sunday pardon. Certainly there are grave dangers in the use of a pardon to exonerate a government official for crimes while in office, even before he is charged with any. Had Nixon done this for the plumbers or the Watergate burglars, he clearly would have created grounds for impeachment. Is the present action less a violation of the presidential oath faithfully to execute the laws?"

• The New York Times branded the pardon "an act of flagrant favoritism" and a "body blow to the President's own credibility." The New York Daily News, however, commented: "We feel that in the fullness of time Mr. Ford's action will be accepted gratefully by the vast majority of citizens as the most compassionate, honorable and wise solution to an extremely vexing and difficult dilemma."

• Foreign newspaper reaction was mixed. The London Daily Express said Mr. Ford had "made a good beginning by dispersing the clouds of fear and distrust which have darkened the presidency." In Tokyo, the Japan Times expressed disappointment at the President's action, and the Manila Evening Express questioned whether the pardon set a "double standard of justice" in the United States.