

# Majority Supports Ford For Pardoning Nixon <sup>F Post</sup> 9-11-74

Local reaction to President Gerald Ford's pardoning of former President Richard Nixon was mixed, but a clear majority in an "on the street" survey Monday felt Ford's move was right.

Sam Jones of Walkersville, agreed with the pardon. "It was the only humane thing to do," he said. "I do think it's robbing justice a little but that doesn't really make a difference 'cause justice has been robbed enough before."

A sales lady at Glick Shoes on Market Street thought Ford had made "a sad mistake" by pardoning Nixon. She favored the ex-President's open trial in the court and appropriate punishment like any other citizen, if found guilty. "I don't think he (Nixon) should have been given that (pardon) at all," she repeated.

Hoyt Stephens, a retired teacher of Frederick, asserted that Ford "did the right thing". "I can't understand," he said, "Why some people oppose this." Stephens thought Nixon and his family had already "suffered enough. They are going to suffer even after this (grant of pardon)."

A passerby, who preferred not to give her name, echoed Stephens' view. She spoke of the ordeal the Nixon family is going through because of Watergate and opined it would be "inhuman" to subject them to

any further persecution.

Lemuel Breckenridge of Ijamsville, too, maintained, "He should have been pardoned. He has been stripped of his presidency and had suffered enough already." However, Breckenridge believed Nixon was "somewhat responsible" for the Watergate scandal.

Barney May of Rt. 10, had "no doubt about it" that Ford "did the right thing." He thought Nixon was responsible for Watergate. "But I also think he and his family have been punished enough for it," he pointed out. "To tell you the truth, it was a good idea" that Nixon was pardoned, May added.

Mrs. S. Whitter of Braddock Heights was "surprised, but pleased" with the action. "I agree with it," she said, adding, "That's what I was hoping for. I think the President (ex-President Nixon) is suffering enough."

W. W. Waltz, a resident of Frederick, thought Ford "has set a bad precedent. He was done a wrong thing."

Waltz, however, said he had "mixed emotions" about the question. "What can you do with a guy like that (Nixon)?" wondered David Grove at Better Homes on East Patrick Street.

"I think," he continued, "he (Ford) has done the right thing. Would you hang him (Nixon)?" Grove queried again.