

Ford Testimony Is Rescheduled By Hill Panel

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President Ford's scheduled testimony Thursday before a House subcommittee on the background of his pardon of former President Nixon has been postponed one week because a jury for the Watergate cover-up trial has not yet been selected.

Subcommittee Chairman William L. Hungate (D-Mo.) read the following statement to newsmen:

"The subcommittee has decided, with the concurrence of the White House, to postpone the President's appearance until Thursday, October 17 at 10 a.m. to afford ample time for selection and sequestration of the Watergate jury. As chairman of the subcommittee, I believe any further comment would be inappropriate at this time."

Hungate's only further statement was that he talked by telephone with someone at U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica's court shortly before 6 p.m. and was told they jury selection had not been completed.

The Judiciary subcommittee agreed, with only Rep. Wiley Mayne (R-Iowa) dissenting, that the hearing should be delayed until a jury has been selected and locked up out of reach of newspapers and television, because the testimony might prejudice the right of defendants to a fair trial.

The President will be asked about the circumstances under which he pardoned Mr. Nixon for any crimes he may have committed as President. The conspiracy trial defendants include Mr. Nixon's closest aides from White House days, in-

cluding H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, former chief of staff, who has been described as Mr. Nixon's alter ego.

Among the questions Mr. Ford has been asked to answer are whether he had received medical reports on Mr. Nixon before granting the pardon and whether he had made a deal to issue the pardon before Mr. Nixon resigned.