

Questioning Ford

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"When Haig discussed a pardon of Nixon by you what did Haig say to you and what did you say to Haig?" We do not know the answer because no member of the subcommittee empaneled to investigate the pardon asked President Ford this obvious question. Nor did your watchdog newspaper even remark this patent failure to try for the facts upon which the President's conclusion that there was no "deal" was based. Instead your editorial deplored the fact that nobody asked him what he really thinks now about the man he succeeded.

I suggest that this extraordinary thirst for a lack of knowledge about the Nixon pardon, shared by the Congress and the press, reflects a lack of public enthusiasm for discovering a truth that can be put to no immediate use. If we really wanted to know the facts about the pardon, we would insist that Haig and Nixon tell us what each told the other about what Ford said and what he was expected to say, when Ford's pardon "recommendations" were sought by Haig.

No matter what kind of deal may have been made there is nothing useful we can now do about it. We can't threaten to impeach two Presidents in a single year and expect to solve any of our most pressing problems. President Ford may have been wrong in his handling of the pardon but he was certainly right in his estimation of practical public priorities.

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