

Ford's Clemency

Program Shunned

Washington

Of the more than 100,000 eligible men convicted of desertion or draft evasion, only 742 had applied for executive clemency with President Ford's program at the halfway point.

That was reported yesterday by Charles E. Goodell, chairman of the presidential clemency board. He called it "greatly disappointing."

But Goodell said he expects things to pick up when the eligibles understand the program and that "they have nothing to lose."

Goodell said the clemency

board has been getting its ground rules established and is now ready for the first time to make recommendations to the President on applicants.

The board is considering 62 cases of men furloughed from prison, will make decisions on many of them by today and expects to report to the President in two or three weeks, he said.

The board is empowered to recommend executive clemency, including commutation of sentence and either unconditional pardon or pardon conditioned on alternative service.