

Ford Gives 8 Resisters Full Pardons

SFChronicle

Washington

President Ford, declaring "the task of formal forgiveness is underway," yesterday granted eight full pardons and ten conditional clemencies to Vietnam war resisters.

The eight granted full pardons, of course, are not required to perform alternate service. However, the ten granted conditional clemency are obligated to service ranging from three months to a year depending on their individual cases.

The 18 cases acted on by the President were the first recommendations made to him since he announced September 16 the earned re-entry program for military and civilian opponents of the Vietnam war.

"These first few decisions do not end the unfinished business of clemency," Mr. Ford said in a brief ceremony attended by members of the Clemency Board and its staff.

"But the task of formal forgiveness is underway. I hope it marks the beginning of personal forgiveness in the hearts of all Americans troubled by Vietnam and its aftermath," Mr. Ford added.

Mr. Ford said of the 18 initial cases sent to the Clemency Board, he had "reviewed each one and personally approved each one."

All 18 of the cases involved civilian draft resisters who were in prison at the time of Mr. Ford's September 16 announcement.

At that time, 85 imprisoned civilian resisters were

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furloughed from jail and Clemency Board Chairman Charles Goodell said yesterday the remaining 67 will stay free until the board and the President have disposed of their cases.

The Clemency program, which deals only with civilian or military personnel already convicted of a war-related offense, such as draft resistance or desertion, has a potential case load of 8700 civilians and more than 100,000 military personnel.

To date, according to Goodell, about 770 persons have applied to the Clemency Board for review of their cases.

"Over and over again in reviewing the cases before the board, we have found that the applicants are not the stereotyped ideological war resisters," Goodell told reporters.

Some, he said, held genuine conscientious objections to killing but generally did not know how to pursue their rights properly through the selective service system. Others, he said, had family problems and little education and had been unable to explain their problems.

"Basically, these people just didn't know how to take advantage of their rights under our legal system. They just didn't know how," Goodell said.

While the board has received applications from only a small number of the more than 100,000 men convicted of evading military service, or for desertion or being absent without leave while in service, Goodell said that the applications so far indicate "that the image we have held in the past of the typical Vietnam era draft evader is just plain wrong."

For example, one man pardoned has served nearly a year of a three-year sentence after being classified as a conscientious objector and refusing an order from

Evaders in Canada Will 'Hang Tight'

Toronto

U.S. draft evaders and military deserters in Canada yesterday rejected as a "blatant public relations stunt" the granting of the first pardons under President Ford's "earned re-entry" program for Vietnam war resisters.

They said they will "hang tight" in Canada until the Ford Administration grants unconditional amnesty to all resisters.

"Today's pardons were purely designed to play on the emotions at the start of the Christmas season and

try to make people think the program is working," said exile spokesman Jack Colhoun, a 29-year-old deserter from Madison, Wis.

"We expect the government will do a lot more of this sort of thing to try to lure resisters home. But we're not going to fall for it.

"We know the program is not working — and it will never work until the President grants universal, unconditional amnesty to all resisters and ends U.S. aid to the governments of South Vietnam and Cambodia."

United Press

his draft board to work in a hospital.

According to the summary, the man, a member of Jehovah's Witnesses, refused the order because of his religious beliefs that the draft board was part of the military, but would have performed alternate service if a judge had ordered him to do so.

Although the board did release the names of the 18 individuals involved and a summary of the 18 cases involved, Goodell refused to match names with cases or to give out the hometowns of the individuals because, said Goodell would violate their right to privacy.

Here are the names and disposition of the 18 cases.

Philip B. Alford, ten months alternate service.

John V. Bartle, three months alternate service.

Johnny Charles, pardon.

Richard J. Covell, six months alternate service.

Valentin L. Del Pino, six months alternate service.

William F. Gee, six months alternate service.

Shelby B. Graham, pardon.

Jesse G. Guerra, pardon.

David L. Hale, six months

alternate service.

Thomas Heflin, three months alternate service.

Victor D. Hyatt, pardon.

Ronald E. Kesler, six months alternate service.

John E. Lemons, pardon.

Donald R. Lineback, pardon.

Robert E. Lopes, pardon.

William C. Slater, 12 months alternate service.

Robert F. Toth, pardon.

Bruce Wallington, three months alternate service.

United Press

Pilgrims Killed In Auto Crash

Amman, Jordan

Eight Turkish Moslem pilgrims en route to Mecca were killed and five injured in a collision involving two cars of their convoy and a truck, the Jordanian government reported yesterday.

A spokesman said the collision occurred Thursday night near the Jordanian town of Maan, 132 miles south of Amman on Jordan's border with Saudi Arabia.

Associated Press