

30 Mar 75 (1)

Nixon (pardon) - Undated story on suit by F. Gregory Murphy asking that Nixon's pardon be declared null and void; story does not report his arguments. He is an attorney of Marquette, Michigan.

U.S. District Judge Noel Fox, in Grand Rapids, says Nixon was a "putative rebel leader" whose administration apparently was engaged in "an insurrection and rebellion against constitutional government itself," but he rules that Ford's pardon of Nixon was constitutional.

From story by Knight News Service:

"Judge Fox based his rulin, in part, on the Federalist No. 74, written by Alexander Hamilton in 1788 in support of the then-proposed Constitution.

"Hamilton argued that a president's pardoning power should be unrestricted because 'in seasons of insurrection or rebellion, there are often critical moments, when a well-timed offer of pardon to the insurgents or rebels may restore the tranquility of the commonwealth.'

"And, Fox ruled, the period from the Watergate burglary in June, 1972, until Nixon's resignation in August, 1974, was a 'season of insurrection or rebellion by many actually in the government.'"

SF Sunday Ex & Chron 30 Mar 75, Knight News Service

Nixon as leader of rebellion against constitutional government - See entry, Nixon, pardon.

Safire - Review of his book, "Before the Fall: An Inside View of the Pre-Watergate White House."

On Nixon: "Safire says that one of his self-appointed roles was to loosen up the 'reverential atmosphere' around Nixon - no mean feat considering that the President liked to refer to himself in the third person and kept a music box on his desk that played 'Hail To The Chief.'"

On Nixon and China: "[Safire] shows no qualms about describing Nixon's trip to Peking as 'ripping off a national blindfold with daring and panache' - and barely pauses to acknowledge that it was Nixon and his fellow Cold Warriors who had helped keep the blindfold in place for three decades."

WXP 30 Mar 75, Anthony Marro

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Nixon (China policy) - See entry, Safire.

Haldeman - Second hour of two-hour television intv by
Mike Wallace. See entry 23 Mar, on first hour.