

## The Major Events of the Day

### Nixon's Pardon

President Ford granted former President Nixon an unconditional pardon for any Federal crimes he may have committed during his term in office. The pardon exempts Mr. Nixon from indictment and trial for, among other things, his role in the cover-up of the Watergate burglary. Mr. Ford said the pardon was intended to spare both Mr. Nixon and the country further punishment resulting from the Watergate scandals. Phillip W. Buchen, the White House counsel who advised Mr. Ford on the legal aspects of the pardon, said it was an "act of mercy" on the President's part and was done without making any demands on Mr. Nixon and without asking the advice of the Watergate special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski. [1:8.]

Within 10 minutes after the Presidential pardon was announced, former President Nixon made a public statement at his estate in San Clemente, Calif., expressing "regret and pain at the anguish my mistakes over Watergate have caused the nation and the Presidency." [1:3.]

A spokesman for Mr. Jaworski said the Watergate special prosecutor apparently has no plans to challenge the validity of Mr. Nixon's unconditional pardon. John Barker, the spokesman, said that Mr. Jaworski "thinks it's within the President's power to do it." He added that Mr. Jaworski had not been consulted in advance by Mr. Ford or White House lawyers, and that he learned of the President's decision less than an hour before it was announced. [1:5.]

The White House announced that Mr. Nixon and the Ford Administration had reached an agreement under which Mr. Nixon will ultimately be permitted to declassify tapes recordings that were made in the White House for three years before it was announced. [1:5.]

J. F. Terborgh, the White House press secretary, resigned in protest against President Ford's pardon of Mr. Nixon. [1:8.]

Benton L. Becker, a 36-year-old Washington lawyer, said to be well connected with the White House and a close friend of President Ford, was intermediary between Mr. Ford and Mr. Nixon on the pardon. Mr. Becker was described by a former colleague

## The Other News

### Nixon Pardon

Reaction divided over pardon of Nixon. Page 25  
Jackson bids Ford reconsider Nixon's offer. Page 11  
Democrats here condemn pardon for Nixon. Page 25

### International

Serious problems confront NATO in 25th year. Page 3  
Leone's visit to U.S. stirs dispute over NATO. Page 3  
Mexican calls his abductors "good boys." Page 3  
White right insists on Mozambique control. Page 4  
Shopkeepers uneasy as Bisau nears freedom. Page 5  
Group in Saigon calls Government oppressive. Page 6  
10 countries join in weather study. Page 7

### Government and Politics

3 Democrats vie in Colorado Senate primary. Page 13  
Kuh asks for tough penalties for 15-year-olds. Page 28  
Samuels and Carey trade old and new charges. Page 29  
Correctional facilities for Harlem protested. Page 36

### General

Ulster County N.Y. sheriff urged anew to quit. Page 16  
Former convict on City Board of Correction. Page 17  
Crowds threaten success of nudist beach. Page 20  
Policeman shot after stopping car in Bronx. Page 22  
Bicycle thefts are a growing problem. Page 33  
Metropolitan Briefs. Page 37  
Deficiencies reported in nursing homes. Page 37  
Study of ex-prisoners in Connecticut planned. Page 37  
Nuns founding order with Yoga in rites. Page 37  
City Hall Notes. Page 37  
Garden crowd cheers effort by Knievel. Page 50

### Industry and Labor

Union marks 10th year of housing project. Page 59  
Education and Welfare Denver schools integrate smoothly. Page 15

## Quotations of the Day

"I feel that Richard Nixon and his loved ones have suffered enough, and will continue to suffer no matter what I do, no matter what we as a great and good nation can do together to make his goal of peace come true."—President Gerald R. Ford. [24:11]

"No words can describe the depths of my regret and pain at the anguish my mistakes over Watergate have caused the nation and the Presidency, a nation I so deeply love and an institution I so greatly respect."—Former President Richard M. Nixon. [1:4.]

Few employables on relief found to hold jobs. Page 31  
Health and Science Task force to deal with children's Center. Page 27  
Amusements and the Arts "Power Broker," about Robert Moses, reviewed. Page 39  
80,000 at Roosevelt for summer rock finale. Page 42  
National Theater offers international view. Page 42  
Art show opens expanded Ft. Worth Museum. Page 43  
Portobello fair packs in the crowds. Page 43  
Simon Schuster-Washington Post merger hinted. Page 44  
Record number of program changes due on TV. Page 63  
TV "Born Free" marked by clichés. Page 63  
Going Out Guide Page 43  
About New York Page 70

Family/Style World fertilizer shortage affects laws. Page 40  
Miss America fields some touchy questions. Page 40  
Business and Financial Steel mill marks new Japanese role upstate. Page 53  
Tight money policy relaxed, Fed says. Page 53  
D&H. Railway credits black ink to workers. Page 53  
Purchasing men indicate slump deepens. Page 53

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Russians push machine tool sales in U.S. Page 53  
West Germany plans a bank consortium. Page 53  
5 nations vow fight against unemployment. Page 53  
Retailers confident on sales, wary on profits. Page 53  
F.P.C. proposals define energy emergency. Page 53  
Amex likely to clear Treasury bill trading. Page 54  
Advertising News: Personal Finance 54

Sports Yanks lose and are tied for first place. Page 45  
Miss Goolagong, Rosewall, Connors in finals. Page 45  
Mets win, Brock ties career stolen-base mark. Page 45  
Roundup: Red Sox tie for lead, but Orioles falter. Page 45  
Trevino, Player to continue in playoff today. Page 45  
East German women set 2 world track marks. Page 46  
Martin wins junior title at Forest Hills. Page 47  
U.S. eight takes gold medal in world rowing. Page 48  
Great Dane chosen best dog at Westchester. Page 49  
Fezler scores first victory on golf tour. Page 50

Editorials and Comment Editorials and Letters. Page 34  
William Safire discusses keeping a diary. Page 35  
Calvin Trillin on Middlewesterners and Ex-Mids. Page 35  
Samantha Seneger scores miscast tax reform. Page 35

News Analysis Clifton Daniel assesses reasons for pardon. Page 25