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The Nixon Pardon

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Ford Didn't Tell All

Washington

President Ford told a group of Republican governorship candidates yesterday that he has not revealed all the reasons for his controversial decision to pardon former President Nixon.

During a strategy and picture-taking session with 11 GOP statehouse challengers, both Mr. Ford and his chief political adviser, Dean Burch, alluded to still-secret information and said Mr. Ford might reveal it soon.

Following the meeting in the Oval Office, Tennessee Governor Winfield Dunn, said Mr. Ford told the group he "might be able to explain in the not-too-distant future a number of things" about the pardon issue.

Dunn, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, said Mr. Ford did not elaborate on his remark. But two others in attendance verified the statement.

Jay Hammond, Republican candidate for Alaskan governor, said Mr. Ford mentioned the confidential information in answer to a question from the group. He said the same topic was volunteered earlier in a briefing by Burch.

Burch spoke of "some information that the President may or may not reveal that played an important part in his decision," according to Hammond.

James Granberry, Texas gubernatorial challenger,

told reporters Burch disclosed that Mr. Ford was "privy to some information that . . . he might make public but also might never make public."

"I didn't think too much about it because the President has a lot of information of that sort," Granberry said.

All three men said the remarks were made in passing, without much emphasis. They said there was no hint as to the topic of the information, including whether it related to Mr. Nixon's apparent worsening physical problems, his reported low spirits, or to the difficult state of his finances.

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