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Dent Urges
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Repeal of
Amendment

Rep. John H. Dent (D-Pa.) yesterday proposed repeal of the 25th Amendment, which provides for the President to appoint a Vice President, subject to congressional confirmation, when the vice presidency is vacant.

Dent also urged that presidential pardons be banned until an individual is convicted and sentenced. This move was a reaction to President Ford's pardoning of former President Nixon although he had not been indicted or tried for Watergate-related activities.

Dent said the 25th Amendment, under which Mr. Nixon nominated Mr. Ford last year and Mr. Ford has now nominated Nelson A. Rockefeller, "leaves the electorate of this nation open to the possibility of being governed by persons who have never been publicly elected by or responsible to a body of voters."

Repeal would require a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate and approval of three-fourths of the 50 states. A repeal would restore the situation in which the vice presidency would remain vacant and the Speaker of the House, now Democrat Carl Albert of Oklahoma, would become President if something happened to the chief executive.

The proposal to limit the presidential pardon power Dent termed "an attempt to prevent future Presidents from stretching the pardon power to almost unrecognizable limits as President Ford has done."