

Reagan Backs Ford On Pardon

Sacramento

Governor Ronald Reagan said yesterday he would have pardoned former President Nixon if he had been in the same position as President Ford.

Reagan, in an interview, supported Mr. Ford's action but said he had some questions about Mr. Ford's proposal for conditional clemency for Vietnam draft evaders and deserters.

"I think compassionate clemency begins with some repentance on the part of the individual," the Republican governor said.

Reagan said he had not detected any such repentance by spokesmen for resisters abroad who have condemned Mr. Ford's proposal as unacceptable.

"They placed themselves above the law. They took the law into their hands and broke it," Reagan said.

As for Watergate and the pardon, Reagan said, "I think this affair has been going on far too long and has become virtually an obsession" with the news media and some politicians.

"The people, I think, are sick of it and I think his (Ford's) idea was let's get it behind us," Reagan said.

Reagan was asked if he

would have done the same thing if he had been in Mr. Ford's position and he said, "Yes."

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