

Nixon Pardon

The American Bar Association yesterday criticized the timing of the pardon for former President Nixon and called on President Ford to withhold future pardons "until appropriate judicial processes have been followed."

"One of the lessons of Watergate is the need, in general, for adherence to regular judicial processes," the ABA board of governors said in a statement.

The board said it recognized that the Nixon pardon "could involve considerations not present in other cases," but said that ordinarily pardons should not be issued in advance of verdicts. The recommendation was made "in order to avoid the possible erosion of public respect for law," the board said.