

Curb the Pardoners

To the Editor:

Little can be done about the immediate consequences of President Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon, but something can be done about its future effect.

The 25th Amendment to the Constitution placed President Ford in the position to make this unpardonable error; a 26th Amendment should remove from him and his successors the temptation to wrongdoing toward which he has pointed the way.

I suggest that the Senate Judiciary Committee, whence emanated the amendment enabling Richard Nixon to pick his successor, take the lead in fashioning another which would deprive future Presidents of the power to pardon in certain circumstances. One such circumstance would be the pardon of one's predecessor; another the pardon of anyone appointed by the incumbent President; there are undoubtedly still others the committee would incorporate so as to prevent the use of this extraordinary power for personal or political ends.

Before it is again too late, we should move to keep this ancient act of grace from falling into further disrepute.

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