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Ford to Testify
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Before Congress

Washington

President Ford told a House subcommittee yesterday he will personally appear to testify on why he gave former President Nixon a pardon.

The President told Chairman William L. Hungate, (Dem-Mo.) of the House Judiciary subcommittee in a brief letter that he would personally respond to the 14 questions raised by two resolutions before the subcommittee.

Mr. Ford said he would like to arrange the personal testimony within the next

ten days, Hungate said.

Hungate said it would be the first personal testimony by a sitting president before Congress since that of Abraham Lincoln.

The chairman said White House research shows that only Presidents Lincoln and Washington testified before Congress while they were in office and that Theodore Roosevelt testified before Congress after he left the White House.

The questions Mr. Ford agreed to answer are on details of whether White House

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Chief of Staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. suggested the pardon for Mr. Nixon, what agreements were made in connection with the pardon and whether Mr. Ford's granting of it was based on any knowledge of Mr. Nixon's mental or physical health.

Before the subcommittee are so-called resolutions of inquiry introduced by Representatives Bella S. Abzug (Dem - N.Y.) and John Conyers Jr. (Dem - Mich.) which, if approved by the House would demand the answers within ten days.

In a "Dear Bill" letter, delivered to Hungate's office shortly before 8 p.m., the President said:

"This is to advise you that I expect to appear personally to respond to the questions raised in House resolutions 1367 and 1370.

"It would be my desire to arrange this hearing before your subcommittee at a mutually convenient time within the next ten days."

Representative Abzug asked for details on when and who first mentioned the pardon to Mr. Ford, whether it was Haig during the week Mr. Nixon resigned as President and what promises or conditions were set for Mr. Nixon's pardon.

Her resolution also asks whether Mr. Ford consulted with Attorney General William B. Saxbe, Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski, Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller or any other attorneys or law professors before deciding to grant the pardon, and if so, what legal authority they cited.

Her resolution asks whether Mr. Ford or his aides asked Mr. Nixon to give a confession or statement of criminal guilt and whether the statement Mr. Nixon did make when he received the pardon was cleared in ad-

vance with Mr. Ford's White House.

Finally it asks, "Did you receive any report from a psychiatrist or any other physician stating that Richard Nixon was in any other than good health? If so, then please provide such reports."

Conyers' resolution asks what representations, if any, were made on behalf of Mr. Nixon and any information presented to Mr. Ford "with respect to the mental or physical health of Richard M. Nixon."

It also asks for any information in Mr. Ford's possession at the time he granted the pardon on whether offenses had been alleged.

And it asks for any representations made by Mr. Nixon or on his behalf to Mr. Ford "in connection with a pardon for alleged offenses against the United States."

Earlier yesterday, the head of another House subcommittee urged congressional action to overturn Mr. Nixon's agreement for destruction of his White House tapes by 1984.

Chairman John Brademas (Dem-Ind.) of the House printing subcommittee denounced the agreement as "an offense against history."

Brademas said it brought to mind the book burning in Nazi Germany.

Associated Press