

Many Local Observers Dis

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and Barbara Bright-Sagnier
Washington Post Staff Writers

Many local Democratic and Republican office-holders and candidates expressed dismay yesterday that President Ford granted Richard M. Nixon a full pardon before evidence of the former president's role in the Watergate cover-up could be heard in court.

"It has been my opinion that the law should take its course in the case of Richard Nixon as in the case of others," said Sen. Charles M. Mathias (R-Md.). "The usual time for an act of compassion is when all the facts are known and the record is complete. Then is the season for mercy from either the judiciary or the executive." Mathias is seeking re-election to his Senate seat this fall.

Maryland's Gov. Marvin Mandel said late yesterday now that Nixon has been granted full amnesty "he has an obligation to tell the American people the entire story of Watergate."

Rep. Stanford E. Parris (R-Va.) said he felt Nixon already had "paid a sufficient penalty for his actions." Parris questioned the effect President Ford's decision might have on future attempts to prosecute other involved in "overall illegal activities."

Rep. Lawrence Hogan (R-Md.) an outspoken member of the House Judiciary Committee and one of the first members to publicly call for the former President's impeachment, had no comment yesterday on Ford's decision. A spokesman for Hogan stated, however, that the congressman was in agreement with the President's statement that Nixon and his family have "suffered enough."

The White House communications office was apparently deluged with telegrams yesterday. A Western

Union official reported telegrams were running 1,000 per cent higher than on a normal Sunday.

The White House said it had no information on telegram flow late yesterday afternoon or on reports that persons trying to call the White House switchboard heard only a constant busy signal late yesterday morning.

At the Capitol, the Western Union spokesman said telegrams were running 500 per cent above normal and were originating mainly from places along the eastern seaboard. The majority of the telegrams were sent at a special political opinion rate, the spokesman said. It allows the sender to write 15 words in addition to his name and address to his congressman, senator or the President for \$2.

What the telegrams said could not be determined yesterday, but public opinion expressed in telephone calls to The Washington Post and the Washington Star-News and in personal interviews was overwhelming against the pardon.

At The Post 58 telephone calls against the pardon were received and one call in favor. A spokeswoman at the Star-News said by 3 p.m. yesterday no calls in favor of the decision were received while 21 callers were against the pardon.

D.C. mayoralty candidate Clifford Alexander said Ford's decision "raises serious questions for others who have gone through the judicial process whether there is equal justice for them."

"I think the honeymoon is going to end a lot more quickly," Alexander said.

Incumbent Mayor Walter E. Washington, who faces Alexander in Tuesday's Democratic primary, said he was "surprised the action was taken in advance of the filing of any formal charges." Washington said he hoped Ford also would extend the "spirit

of compassion and healing" to the young men now being considered for amnesty."

While most political candidates of both parties expressed their doubts over the President's decision, Republican congressional candidate Sheldon Z. Kaplan, Bethesda, said he "applauded President Ford's historic decision . . . to pardon a man who has given so much to our country and ended the Vietnam War, Richard M. Nixon."

Kaplan is trying to unseat Rep. Gilbert Gude (R-Md.). Gude said yesterday he was shocked and disappointed at the decision to pardon Nixon before the "judicial system was permitted to run its full course."

Among 30 persons inter-

viewed at random on Washington streets yesterday, 20 said they disapproved of Mr. Ford's action. Only three said they approved of the pardon for Mr. Nixon. Several said they expected the pardon, but they declined to say whether they approved or disapproved.

Lorlee Bartos, 27, a legislative assistant on Capitol Hill, said she had heard the news on the radio and came immediately to sit in front of the White House as a protest. "I feel betrayed," she said. "Ford was making great advances, but now the honeymoon's over with me."

She said Mr. Ford had absolved "a man who tried to steal my country, and I don't take kindly to that."

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While she spoke, a group of about 30 George Washington University students gathered in front of the White House and distributed posters bearing the legends: "Pardon Nixon, Hell NO" and "Try Nixon, You'll Like It." When the students lifted their signs above their heads, police officers warned them that they could not demonstrate in front of the White House without a permit.

"Maybe they'll pardon us if we get arrested," quipped one of the students.

Another student, John Fellas, 20, New York, said he understood and supported Mr. Ford's action. "I agree with Ford that it's a personal tragedy for Nixon,

I feel sorry for the guy."

Fellas' friend, Marty Hellman, a GW senior from New Jersey, said he felt the pardon was premature.

Two men who live in Northeast Washington—John Mitchell and Frank Wilds—said they strongly disapproved of Mr. Nixon being pardoned. "It shows that the system still goes by a double standard. The very powerful can circumvent the law," said Mitchell. "If he was guilty of any crime, he should have gone through the criminal justice just like anybody else." Mitchell termed the pardon "a carry-over of the cover-up."

Wilds also said he believed every veteran with a

dishonorable discharge should now receive amnesty.

Several tourists standing outside the White House, asked to comment on the pardon, said they had not heard the announcement. Mrs. S. W. Gold opened her mouth wide in amazement, then said she was "truly disappointed."

"My husband and I just arrived from Los Angeles, and we hadn't heard . . . I think our President just wants to be a good guy," she said, "and this is just pleasing his party. But I think our Congress is going to have to get to work to protect the country against dishonesties."

Another visitor to Washington, Mrs. John C. Horner, Lafayette, Ind., said she felt

the country was "fed up and tired of it (Watergate), and maybe it's easier to bury it. Better than spending tax money on a long, drawn-out trial."

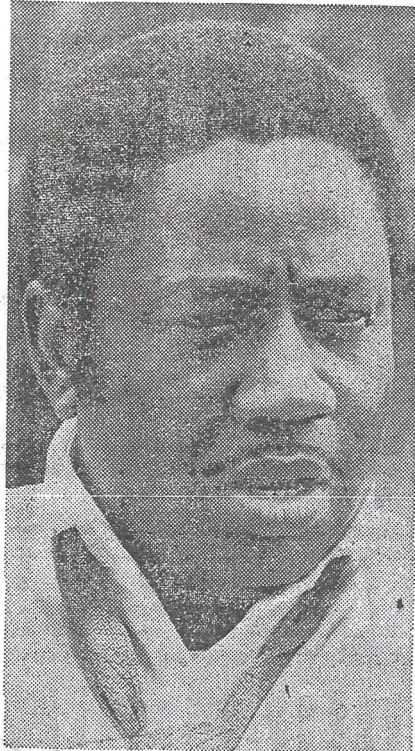
Harold and Bernice Myers, 7212 Cedar Ave., Takoma Park, took an opposite view. "It's despicable, disgusting, unbelievable," they chorused to a reporter's question outside the White House.

"It's unbelievable that the executive take away the judicial power," said Myers, an insurance salesman. "The system doesn't work."

"All this Christian cant about forgiveness and mercy," added Mrs. Myers. "Let 'em release everybody in jail, just do away with the judicial system!"



MRS. S. W. GOLD



JOHN MITCHELL



JOHN FELLAS



MARTY HELLMAN



FRANK WILDS



By Douglas Chevalier—The Washington Post
LORLEE BARTOS