

New Quizzing of Ford On Pardon Is Rejected

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A House Judiciary subcommittee decided yesterday not to seek any more answers from President Ford about his pardon of former President Nixon.

But the subcommittee tentatively set further hearings into the use of the pardoning power, the Ford-Nixon tapes agreement and the powers of the Watergate special prosecutor. These could produce more evidence on the pardon.

Chairman William L. Hungate (D-Mo.) directed the subcommittee staff to arrange for the testimony of Leon Jaworski, the former special prosecutor, by mid-December, and to explore the availability of former White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. to testify.

By a 6-to-3 vote the Criminal Justice Subcommittee voted to pursue no further resolutions

of inquiry filed by Reps. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.) and John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) posing questions about the pardon.

President Ford responded to the resolutions by making his unprecedented appearance as a witness Oct. 17, but the resolutions' supporters said his testimony was incomplete and contradictory and raised fresh questions.

Four lane-duck Republican members of the subcommittee voted to reject the resolutions. Reps. Henry P. Smith (N. Y.) and David W. Dennis (Ind.), joined by Reps. Wiley Mayne (Iowa) and Lawrence J. Hogan (Md.), said the President's testimony should satisfy anybody.

Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.), Don Edwards (D-Calif.) and Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wis.) said the resolutions should be pressed further. They denied that continued inquiry would amount to harassment of Mr. Ford.

Hungate and Rep. James R. Mann (D-S.C.) cast their deciding votes with the Republicans, but they said they expected more information on the pardon from Jaworski, Haig and perhaps other witnesses.

Mann said if the President failed to provide all the answers, the fault "lies in the laps of those of us here" who failed to get them when he testified. "Our failure fully to develop the evidence is just not a sufficient reason to pass these resolutions," Mann said.

Rep. Holtzman gave Hungate a list of 30 questions she said were unanswered—five from the resolutions, 17 raised by Mr. Ford's testimony and the eight she fired at him during her five minutes of examination Oct. 17.

Rep. Abzug said she would ask the full Judiciary Committee to overrule the subcommittee and keep the resolutions of inquiry alive.