

# A Compassion for Nixon in Congress

Washington

Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott said yesterday that he has found growing bipartisan opposition in Congress to the possible criminal prosecution of former President Nixon for his role in the Watergate coverup.

The Pennsylvania Republican said that he had spoken with most of the leaders of both parties in the Senate and House and had concluded that "Most of them would wish that nothing further happens" to Mr. Nixon.

"Most of them are enormously compassionate," he added. "In fact, I know of none who isn't. Everyone hopes that we can say enough is enough, this is the end."

Scott, whose visit to the White House on Wednesday with news of Mr. Nixon's badly diminished support in the Senate apparently played a central role in Mr. Nixon's resignation the next day, has also said that Mr. Nixon's loss of his office amounted to punishment enough.

He was joined yesterday by his colleague, Senator Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, the Republican whip, who maintained that Mr. Nixon "suffered the ultimate political penalty" for his handling of Watergate, which he termed "essentially a political offense."

Griffin said he thought "that most people are satisfied with that."

But Scott, who made his remarks on the CBS program "Face the Nation," and Griffin, who was interviewed on ABC's "Issues and Answers," both agreed that Congress is legally powerless to prevent Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor, from pursu-



UPI Telephoto

SEN. HUGH SCOTT  
'Enough is enough'

ing the matter of Mr. Nixon's culpability.

The most the Congress could do, Scott suggested, would be to approve a sense of the Congress' resolution "addressed to the prosecutors" asserting that the publicity surrounding Mr. Nixon's apparent role in the Watergate coverup had jeopardized his chances for a fair trial.

"In my judgment," Scott continued, "Dick Nixon could not get a fair trial and especially in the District of

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Columbia . . . which has been the focus and the burning fire of all of the charges and innuendoes against the White House."

But Scott said that he was "not sure even whether" the Congress ought to enact such a resolution. He added that he had "agreed with some very respected elders in the Senate and on the Democratic side to let it cool awhile and then get their views."

A resolution similar to that suggested yesterday by Scott was introduced in the Senate last week by Edward W. Brooke (Rep-Mass.).

But Brooke has since said that he will not press for its adoption because Mr. Nixon, in resigning, had not made a "full disclosure of his involvement in Watergate or related matters."

In his televised address to the nation on Thursday night, Mr. Nixon only said that he deeply regretted any "injuries" that might have resulted from the Watergate affair.

The former President did not mention his release, three days before, of transcripts of recorded conversations in the Oval Office in which he approved an attempt to limit the FBI investigation of the Watergate break-in for political reasons.

There are two ways in which Mr. Nixon could avoid prosecution in the coverup case, a prosecution that legal authorities generally agree could be supported by the transcripts of the three conversations on June 23, 1972, six days after the Watergate break-in.

President Ford could grant a full pardon to his predecessor, or Mr. Nixon's lawyers could strike a bargain with Jaworski's office that would give the former President immunity from prosecution.

As a practical matter, neither of these alternatives

## TV Coverage Of Ford Talk

San Francisco network affiliates stations will telecast President Ford's address to a joint session of Congress today at 6 p.m. PDT.

Stations KRON (Channel 4), KPIX (Channel 5) and KGO (Channel 7) will broadcast the entire speech.

would be politically feasible without some expression of support from the Congress, and Scott seemed yesterday to suggest that he favors a negotiated immunity over a presidential pardon.

"I would much prefer that President Ford stay out of it," Scott said. "He was not involved in Watergate."

Jerald terHorst, the new White House press secretary, said Friday that he did not "think the public would stand for" the granting of a pardon to the former President.

Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the majority leader, and Robert Byrd, the majority whip, have said they believe the matter of Mr. Nixon's possible culpability should be left to Jaworski and the Watergate grand jury.

But other Democrats appear to be divided on the question. Senator John V. Tunney, a California liberal, was quoted yesterday as suggesting that Mr. Nixon should not "be set above other Americans and given special immunity." Senator John C. Stennis, a Mississippi conservative, agreed with Scott that Mr. Nixon's resignation amounted to punishment enough.

New York Times

## Jail Hostages

San Marcos, Tex.

An unidentified prisoner held two fellow inmates hostage at the Hays county jail in San Marcos for a brief period yesterday, then voluntarily surrendered his pistol.

Associated Press