

A Wide Variety of Opinion

State Politicians' React

By George Murphy

The reaction from California political leaders to President Ford's pardon of former President Nixon yesterday crossed party lines and varied widely.

A couple of strange bedfellows, Democratic Mayor Joseph Alioto of San Francisco and Republican Governor Ronald Reagan, found themselves allied in praising Mr. Ford's decision.

The only brother act in Congress, San Francisco Representatives Phillip and John Burton of San Francisco, were horrified.

The Democratic and Republican gubernatorial nominees, Edmund G. Brown Jr. and Houston I. Flournoy, were not all that far apart in their views.

Reagan said "I understand President Ford's reasons and support them. It was the right thing to do."

The governor said Mr. Nixon "has suffered as much as any man should." Reagan had issued a public call for clemency shortly after Mr. Nixon's resignation.

Alioto, long a critic of the Nixon administration, agreed with Reagan, saying, "the President's judgment is correct, and I support him.

"This is a time when mer-



JOSEPH ALIOTO
'I support him'



HOUSTON FLOURNOY
'Would have waited'



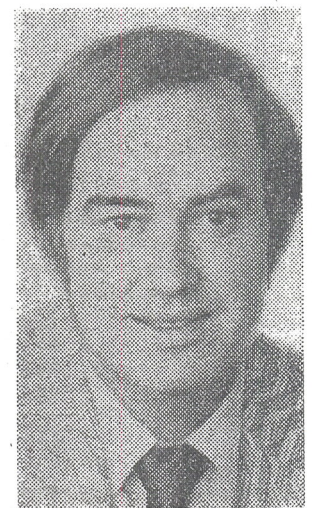
EDMUND BROWN JR.
'Ford was wrong'



JOHN TUNNEY
'A grave mistake'



PHILLIP BURTON
'It's an outrage'



JOHN BURTON
'Travesty of justice'

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cy should season justice. Richard Nixon has been damned forever in American history. His administration will live in infamy far beyond his own lifetime. A jail sentence pales when measured against the severity of that punishment . . . It is important that the wounds of the nation be bound, and this tragic episode put behind us."

Brown opposed Mr. Ford's decision.

"While I sympathize with former President Nixon and his family, I care more about America and our system of justice," he said.

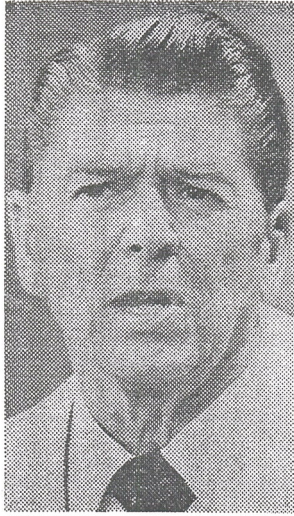
"I believe President Ford was wrong to grant a full pardon before the special prosecutor had completed his independent review of the evidence.

"I still believe Richard Nixon owes the American people an accounting of his role in Watergate and related scandals."

Flournoy's position was fairly close to Brown, with one caveat:

"If the responsibility were mine, I would not have decided at this time whether I would pardon Mr. Nixon. I would have waited until all the facts were known."

"What concerns me most



RONALD REAGAN
'Right thing to do'



ALAN CRANSTON
'I think it unfortunate'

as a private citizen is the equal justice of the President's decision — that other Watergate defendants are going to trial or to prison while Mr. Nixon goes free."

Democratic Representative Phillip Burton said of Mr. Ford's decision: "It's an outrage. It's an unparalleled example of special privilege for those with powerful friends."

Burton's young brother, John, who is also chairman of the state Democratic party, called the act "a travesty of justice.

"It can't help but make the people of this country—especially the young people—more disillusioned about our system.

California's junior U.S. senator, Democrat John Tunney, said in Washington he thought the decision was "a grave mistake.

"It raises serious constitutional implications in that it would appear to put one man above the law.

"There is a vast difference between commuting a sentence after conviction and pardoning a person before he is even brought to trial."

Democrat Alan Cranston, the state's senior U.S. senator, said in part:

"I think it unfortunate that he (Mr. Ford) decided to act at this time. The full pardon, even before charges can be brought against him, has the effect of putting Richard Nixon above the law.

"Confidence in our system of justice rests on complete equality before the law for all citizens. No one, not even a former President, should be shielded from the judicial process."