

Ford Postpones Amnesty Decision

Washington

President Ford has postponed "indefinitely" the decision promised for today on conditional amnesty for Vietnam war deserters and draft resisters, a spokesman announced.

Deputy Press Secretary John Hushen, who took over as acting press secretary following the sudden resignation Sunday of Jerald F. terHorst in protest against the Nixon pardon, said that "the events of the past week, especially of the last 72 hours, have not allowed the President to focus on the question of the conditional amnesty program."

Hushen said Mr. Ford has not finished his consideration of the proposals he has under study.

"It is more complex than he thought initially and he wants to be personally involved in the entire matter," Hushen said in announcing the indefinite postponement of the announcement.

Asked if the pardon for the former President was regarded as more urgent than the question of amnesty, Hushen said: "that's a conclusion you can draw because one (event) followed the other."

The President has made no change in his previously announced case-by-case, category-by-category approach to amnesty, Hushen said.

Asked if there might be unconditional amnesty in line with the full pardon of the former President, the spokesman replied "no."

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