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Ford's Actions FEB 12 1976

House Panel Probe Of Nixon's Pardon

Washington

The House judiciary subcommittee that heard President Ford's testimony on the pardon he granted former President Nixon is ready to go ahead with a broad investigation into reports Mr. Ford has not told the full story about the pardon.

A majority of the seven members of the subcommittee chaired by William Hungate (Dem-Mo.) said in interviews last week that they would insist that witnesses be interviewed about circumstances leading up to the pardon.

A subcommittee meeting to debate and vote on the matter is scheduled for Tuesday. *17 FEB*

Hungate said last week: "I think this subcommittee has a good reputation and it didn't get it by shutting books but by opening them."

The three other subcommittee members favoring a broader investigation are Elizabeth Holtzman of New York, Edward Mezvinsky of Iowa and Martin Russo of Illinois.

All are Democrats on the Judi-

ciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, which heard Mr. Ford's testimony on the pardon Oct. 17, 1974.

Charles Wiggins of California, the ranking Republican on the subcommittee, and Heng Hyde of Illinois, the panel's other Republican member, reportedly oppose any further investigation.

The four Democratic subcommittee members said last week they want to explore news accounts that Mr. Ford gave General Alexander Haig Jr., Mr. Nixon's former chief of staff, a private assurance that a pardon would be granted.

They also want additional information on a memo of Aug. 28, 1974, urging a pardon drafted by former Nixon counsel Leonard Garment and a statement drafted by Raymond Price Jr., Mr. Nixon's chief speechwriter, announcing the pardon ten days before it was granted.

President Ford, when he took office Aug. 9, 1974, denied that he gave any assurance to Haig that a pardon would be forthcoming.



AP Wirephoto

WILLIAM HUNGATE
 Subcommittee chairman

Sources in the White House said that the President did not tell his staff of his discussions with Haig regarding a pardon and Mr. Ford's top advisers were not aware there were any until questioned last December by reporters.

Had these advisers known of the conversations, the sources said, they would have urged they be disclosed when Mr. Ford testified before the Hungate subcommittee on Oct. 17, 1974.

None of the sources suggested that there was any kind of deal on the pardon.

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