

No New Probe Of Nixon Pardon

Washington

A House Subcommittee decided yesterday not to reopen investigation of the Nixon pardon.

By a 4 to 3 vote, the House Judiciary Committee's Criminal Justice Subcommittee rejected Representative Elizabeth Holtzman's request that it determine whether President Ford told Congress the full story behind his pardon in September, 1974, of Richard Nixon.

Representative Holtzman, (Dem-N.Y.) wanted the subcommittee staff to check alleged evidence set forth in a newspaper story that conflicts with Mr. Ford's account of how and when he decided to grant the pardon.

The allegations were raised in a Washington Post article December 18.

That article said there was evidence that Nixon advisers Alexander Haig and Leonard Garment had urged Mr. Ford to pardon Mr. Nixon and that Garment suggested Mr. Nixon might commit suicide if a pardon were not granted.

Mr. Ford, testifying on the issue before the subcommittee in October, 1974, denied he was influenced by any special pleas from Nixon loyalists and said he made the decision independently in September, 1974.

If the Post article was correct, Representative Holtzman said, "then the testimony by President Ford to the subcommittee on criminal justice was not complete and perhaps not candid."

The subcommittee majority, however, supported a motion by Charles E. Wiggins (Rep-Calif.) to turn down the investigation request.

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