

Clemency Board Minority Finds Program Distorted by Majority

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 (AP) — President Ford's clemency board was stacked with anti-war liberals who distorted the intent of the program, urged prison inmates to apply and voted clemency in cases, involving civilian felony convictions including rape and murder, four board members say.

In a minority report submitted to the White House, the four board members said the chairman, Charles E. Goodell, and his staff appeared to have "misinterpreted, circumvented and violated at least the spirit" of the Presidential order establishing the amnesty program for Vietnam war resisters.

The report said that the chairman and his staff had apparently sought to increase the number of applicants, liberalize the structure of the board and "set a liberal precedent relative to executive pardons closely associated with felonious crimes."

Mr. Goodell said he had not read the report and would have no immediate comment on it.

He said the report had been sent to White House counsel Philip W. Buchen, but Mr. Goodell said that Mr. Buchen had returned the report without reading it because he had not received the final majority report.

Copy for White House

The minority report was signed by Lewis W. Walt, a retired Marine Corps general; Ralph Adams, president of Troy State, University in Alabama; James B. Dougovito, Michigan Technical University instructor; and Barry C. Riggs, a retired Army colonel.

The minority members said they opposed the board's decisions granting clemency to men with two or more convictions for serious crimes, adding, "We do not believe that a man who deserted his comrades on the battlefield in Vietnam or who refused to go to Vietnam when he was so ordered, should be given clemency."

They said that when the board was expanded from nine to 18 members, Mr. Goodell stacked the panel so that it became "a more amnesty-oriented, Goodell-influenced group."

After the expansion, the report said, clemency was voted in cases involving men with as many as eight battlefield AWOL convictions and as many as 10 other AWOL's including one of as long as seven years. Clemency was also voted for men guilty of multiple refusals to go into combat and "in cases involving civilian felony convictions [including] rape, mur-

der, manslaughter, grand larceny, armed robbery, aggravated assault," the four board members said.

The minority report also accused Mr. Goodell, a former Republican Senator from New York, of writing letters to all major prisons in the country seeking applicants for the program. This was done, the report said, without the knowledge of board members.

2,000 Applications Noted

"This penitentiary mail produced over 2,000 applications on which the board has taken action and, in the majority of cases, recommended pardons," the report said.

The minority said the board's final report to the President was written by Mr. Goodell's staff and reflects "their very biased pro-amnesty view."

The first draft of the full board's report, which has not yet been submitted to the White House, includes "numerous misleading statements, is nonfactual in many cases and contains whole chapters that are entirely irrelevant to the duties and function of the board," the minority said.

The clemency board was officially disbanded Sept. 15, but its members are to meet again in Washington on Sept. 29 to work on the final draft of the report to the President.

Author Linked to Violation

Special to The New York Times
MONTGOMERY, Ala., Sept. 19—Ralph Adams, one of the four authors of the minority report of the President's Clemency Review Board, was cited this week for a possible ethical and legal violation by the Alabama Ethics Commission.

Mr. Adams's name was among a list of 13 state officials sent by the commission, a newly created ethical watchdog, to the Alabama Attorney General to determine whether prosecution should follow.

Although the names were not made public, the Attorney General's office confirmed reports that Mr. Adams's name was on the list.

The possible infraction involves Mr. Adams's receiving income from more than one state office, in violation of the state constitution.

Mr. Adams is president of Troy State University and serves on several state regulatory boards as well. He is a close personal friend of Gov. George C. Wallace dating back from their college days and was appointed to the small university presidency upon the Governor's recommendation.