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SFChronicle
**Ex POW
Backs
Amnesty**

Washington

A former Marine lieutenant colonel who spent more than five years in a North Vietnamese prison camp called yesterday for universal and unconditional amnesty for war opponents.

"Conditional amnesty or clemency is a contradiction for it is essentially a demand for retribution, a punishment imposed by one faction on another," retired Lieutenant Colonel Edison Miller told a House judiciary subcommittee.

The subcommittee is holding hearings on President Ford's limited clemency program and a variety of both conditional and unconditional amnesty proposals.

Miller, who spent 24 years in the armed forces, was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967. Two and a half years later, from his POW camp, he spoke out against the war and was later censured by the secretary of the Navy for "failing to meet the standards expected of officers."

In calling for general amnesty rather than Mr. Ford's case-by-case policy, Miller said "it is doubtful that any procedure could be devised to separate the sincere men of moral principles from the insincere, the opportunists, the cowards."

United Press