

The Major Events of the Day

Nixon's Pardon

President Ford granted former President Nixon an unconditional pardon for any Federal crimes he may have committed during his term in office. The pardon exempts Mr. Nixon from indictment and trial for, among other things, his role in the cover-up of the Watergate burglary. Mr. Ford said the pardon was intended to spare both Mr. Nixon and the country further punishment resulting from the Watergate scandals. Philip W. Buchen, the White House counsel who advised Mr. Ford on the legal aspects of the pardon, said it was an "act of mercy" on the President's part and was done without making any demands on Mr. Nixon and without asking the advice of the Watergate special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski. [1:8.]

Within 10 minutes after the Presidential pardon was announced, former President Nixon made a public statement at his estate in San Clemente, Calif., expressing "regret and pain at the anguish my mistakes over Watergate have caused the nation and the Presidency." [1:3.]

A spokesman for Mr. Jaworski said the Watergate special prosecutor apparently has no plans to challenge the validity of Mr. Nixon's unconditional pardon. John Barker, the spokesman, said that Mr. Jaworski "thinks it's within the President's power to do it." He added that Mr. Jaworski had not been consulted in advance by Mr. Ford or White House lawyers, and that he learned of the President's decision less than an hour before it was announced. [1:5.]

The White House announced that Mr. Nixon and the Ford Administration had reached an agreement under which Mr. Nixon will ultimately be permitted to delete tape recordings that were made in the White House for three years before the agreement also provided for the release of tapes arising out of the Nixon administration. [1:7.]

J. F. Terborgh, the White House press secretary, resigned in protest against President Ford's pardon of Mr. Nixon. [1:8.]

Benton L. Becker, a 36-year-old Washington lawyer, said to be well connected with the White House and a close friend of President Ford, was intermediary between Mr. Ford and Mr. Nixon on the pardon. Mr. Becker was described by a former colleague

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"I feel that Richard Nixon and his loved ones have suffered enough, and will continue to suffer no matter what I do, no matter what we as a great and good nation can do together to make his goal of peace come true."—President Gerald R. Ford. [24:11]

"No words can describe the depths of my regret and pain at the anguish my mistakes over Watergate have caused the nation and the Presidency, a nation I so deeply love and an institution I so greatly respect."—Former President Richard M. Nixon. [1:4.]

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