

Nixon to Resign From State Bar

By Michael Taylor
Chronicle Correspondent

Sacramento

Former President Nixon's personal lawyer said yesterday that Mr. Nixon will resign from the California Bar and will no longer practice law.

Los Angeles attorney Dean Butler said he had been on the telephone all day with Mr. Nixon's aide, Ron Ziegler, and late in the afternoon Ziegler authorized Butler to tell the State Bar's Board of Governors of the decision.

While board president Seth Hufstedler insisted that the investigation into Mr. Nixon's conduct is still continuing, it is expected that the probe will be dropped shortly.

Hufstedler said that when the resignation is delivered to the bar, it will be turned over to the State Supreme Court for disposition.

If the court accepts it, Hufstedler added, this would end all disciplinary proceed-

Back Page Col. 5

From Page 1

ings by the State Bar against Mr. Nixon.

Butler said Mr. Nixon had been considering leaving the practice of law ever since his August 9 resignation from the presidency.

"He said he had no desire to continue in practice," Butler said.

He also said that the bar's ongoing investigation of the former president had become a "source of irritation" to Mr. Nixon.

Butler said Mr. Nixon's decision became firm "some time ago," but the announcement was delayed until yesterday, when the State Bar Convention here was filled with angry debate over President Ford's pardon of Mr. Nixon.

A resolution condemning the Nixon pardon, offered by San Francisco attorney James Brosnahan, passed on a 347 to 169 vote.

The adopted resolution calls on the bar's 15-member board of governors to condemn President Ford for proclaiming a pardon that "violates the principle that all persons stand equal before the law."

The pardon, according to Brosnahan's resolution, "presents a substantial threat that the confidence of our citizens in the American system of justice will be undermined."

Earlier in the day, Attorney General Evelle Younger joined his fellow lawyers in condemning the pardon.

Younger, a Republican said Mr. Ford's action of Sunday "surprised" him, but he added that the pardon for federal crimes in no way rules out the possibility of state prosecutions.

"There are 58 district attorneys in California," Younger said, "and any one of them can or cannot bring charges" against Mr. Nixon, depending on the district at-

torney's jurisdiction.

The state's chief law enforcement officer said the presidential pardon "will have a disastrous effect on the other Watergate prosecutions. There's only a slight possibility that any conviction would hold up on appeal."

He said that "if I were a defense lawyer, I wouldn't have too much difficulty persuading a jury that in the light of a presidential pardon, it follows that the hired hands shouldn't be convicted in similar crimes.

One of Younger's chief complaints was that Mr. Ford's "timing was strange. The pardon presupposes a guilt that hasn't been established. And, besides, you have this possible double standard that's going to complicate all the other (Watergate) cases."

Younger drew an analogy between the pardon of Mr. Nixon and the possible future amnesty for draft evaders and war resisters, recently announced by President Ford.

"I think this pardon of Nixon may speed things up," Younger said.

Shortly after Younger talked about Mr. Ford's pardon of Mr. Nixon, the 500 State Bar delegates opened their conference and immediately put aside their other business to revive the main topic of conversation here over the past two days

Lawyers had been meeting in hotel rooms Sunday night and far into yesterday morning, drafting resolutions condemning President Ford. After a few brief skirmishes with the conference's executive committee, Brosnahan asked that the parliamentary rules be suspended so the question of the pardon could be discussed.

"We have to realize the implication this pardon will have on future disciplinary proceedings against Nixon,"



AP Wirephoto

DEAN BUTLER
Nixon's attorney

Brosnahan said. "There isn't a lawyer in this house who hasn't followed what's happened in the past 24 hours and doesn't have at least an incipient opinion about it."

The San Francisco lawyer praised the board of governors for their year-long investigation of possible disbarment proceedings against the former President.

The State Bar has already done substantial work in this area with five other California lawyers implicated in the Watergate scandals.

One of them, Herbert Kalmbach, Nixon's former personal lawyer, has been suspended from the practice of law in California and is now in federal prison.