

19 AUG 74

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Amnesty for draft evaders and deserters - Ford addresses Veterans of Foreign Wars at their convention in Chicago, tells them he has ordered a review of the whole question of amnesty for draft dodging and desertion, to enable 50,000 offenders "to work their way back home." Story says, "The 3000 VFW members sat in stunned silence as the President read his statement on amnesty. It had not been part of the advance text distributed to newsmen aboard the plane en route here from Washington."

WXP describes Ford's announcement as "a dramatic and unexpected break with [Nixon's] assertion he would 'never' approve amnesty."

Ford says he has directed Attorney General William B. Saxbe and Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger to propose recommendations for a new policy before 1 Sep.

SFC 20 Aug 74 [WXP] - filed Ford Ad

- Ford announced clemency program 16 Sep 74. "Postponements of the plan's announcement fueled speculation that it was being delayed or revamped as a result of Ford's pardon to former President Nixon. But administration officials say the conditional amnesty program was not developed in concert with or reaction to the Nixon pardon.

SFEEx 15 Sep 74 (AP) - filed Ford Ad