

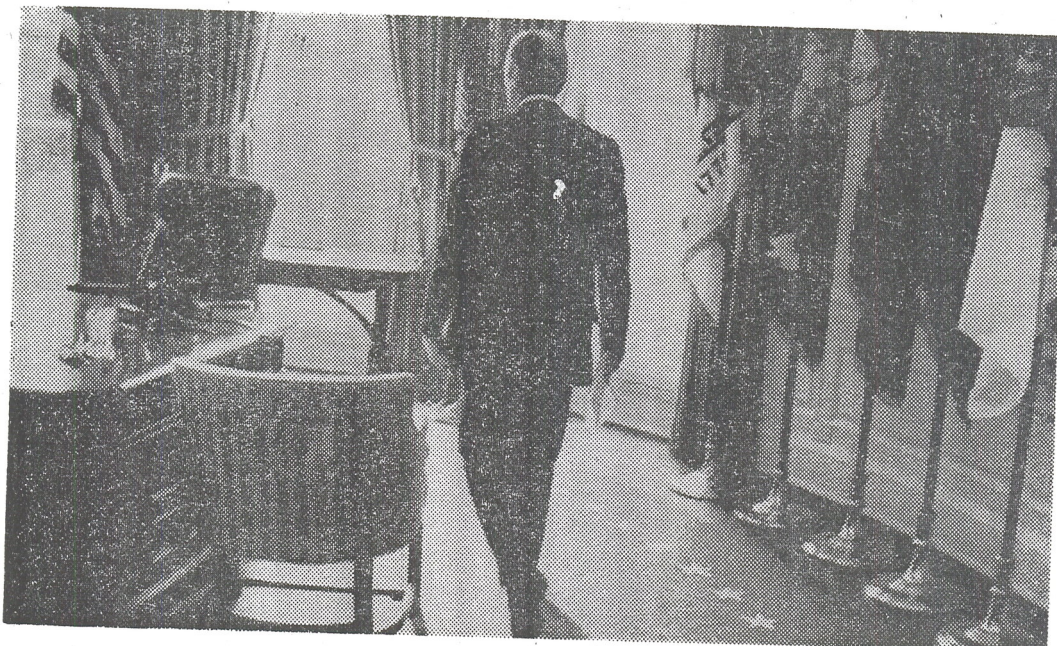


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Mr. Ford signed the proclamation after reading his statement

The Somber President

It was a totally somber President Ford who yesterday summoned reporters and TV cameramen to his Oval Office for the announcement of his granting of pardon to Richard M. Nixon. Unsmilingly, even grimly, he read his statement absolving the former President from any federal crimes Mr. Nixon "committed or may have committed" in office until his resignation took effect August 9. Then, with equal somberness, Mr. Ford signed the formal proclamation of pardon, rose, and walked away from his desk.



AP Wirephoto

... then left his Oval Office desk and walked away from the gathering of reporters