

Nixon's Response To Ford's Action

The following is the text of Richard Nixon's response to President Ford's pardon for all offenses related to the Watergate scandal the former President committed or may have committed while in office.

I have been informed that President Ford has granted me a full and absolute par-

don for any charges which may be brought against me for actions taken during the time I was the President of the United States. In accepting this pardon, I hope that his compassionate act will contribute to lifting the burden of Watergate from our country.

Here in California, my

perspective on Watergate is quite different than it was while I was embattled in the midst of the controversy while I was still subject to the unremitting daily demand of the presidency itself.

Looking back on what is still in my mind a complex and confusing maze of events, decisions, pressures, and personalities, one thing I can see clearly now is that I was wrong in not acting more decisively and more forthrightly in dealing with Watergate, particularly when it reached the stage of judicial proceedings and grew from a political scandal into a national tragedy.

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 loved and an institution I so greatly respect.

I know that many fair-minded people believe that my motivation and actions in the Watergate affair were intentionally self-serving and illegal. I now understand how my own mistakes and misjudgments have contributed to that belief and seemed to support it. This burden is the heaviest one of all to bear.

That the way I tried to

deal with Watergate was the wrong way is a burden I shall bear for every day of the life that is left to me.

Ford's Editor

Washington

Veteran newspaper correspondent Philip Warden is joining the White House staff as editor of President Ford's daily news summary, a spokesman announced last week.

Associated Press