

SFChronicle SEP 10 1974

# Pardon Pleases Amnesty Backers

Washington

Proponents of all-out amnesty for Vietnam war registrars and deserters seized upon the Nixon pardon issue yesterday to renew their calls for unconditional clemency.

The calls came as President Ford, saying he has been too busy with the Nixon case to concentrate on the war amnesty issue, postponed indefinitely release of his final plan of "earned re-entry" for fugitive draft violators and military deserters.

Spokesmen for several amnesty groups said they plan to use the additional time to restate their case, with emphasis on the question of equal treatment for law violators.

"There's been a real change in the ball game be-

cause of this action," said Warren Hoover, director of the National Interreligious Service Board, an amalgam of religious organizations working on matters of the war and individual conscience.

Hoover said most amnesty proponents had not called for prosecution of former President Nixon and were not calling for it now. But the pardon issued Sunday "does seem to call for a reassessment by the President," he said.

Henry Schwartzchild, director of the American Civil Liberties Union amnesty project, said, "We welcome the postponement, unless of course it becomes an indefinite postponement and the President buries the issue."

Washington Post