

## Sharp, Bipartisan Criticism

Washington NYT

There was solid, bipartisan opposition in Congress yesterday to the idea of a blanket presidential pardon for former aides of Richard Nixon who are charged with Watergate offenses.

House Republican Leader John Rhodes of Arizona reiterated his support for President Ford's pardon of Mr. Nixon, but he said that the Nixon assistants "have not been forced to suffer the special consequences that a fallen president must bear."

Moreover, Rhodes said, the aides' "fates are not directly connected with the well-being of the republic."

Speaker of the House, Carl Albert of Oklahoma, said that pardoning the numerous officials "would be viewed as an abuse of presidential power."

Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the assistant Democratic leader in the Senate, said that further pardons would "complete the coverup of the coverup."

Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania said he opposes blanket clemency and that, if Mr. Ford considers pardons, he should do so only on a case-by-case basis.

Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) urged Mr. Ford to declare "at least a 30-day moratorium on any further pardons over Watergate. The tidal wave of national criticism over his pardon of Mr. Nixon should have shown the President that his instincts are clearly out of touch with the vast majority of the people of America."

The office of Representative John Conyers (Dem-

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Mich.) said he is considering the possibility of introducing an impeachment resolution against Mr. Ford because of the Nixon pardon.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem. N.C.), the chairman of the now-dissolved Senate Watergate committee, said "I didn't think Ford would be foolish enough to grant an absolute pardon to President Nixon . . . I can't imagine he would make such a mockery of equal justice, by pardoning these men who undertook to steal from the American people the right to a free election and to undermine the process by which presidents are chosen."

Telephone calls, telegrams and letters about Mr. Nixon's pardon continued to flow into the White House.

John W. Hushen, Mr. Ford's spokesman, said that as of midnight Monday night the White House had received 5700 calls supporting the President and 3900 opposing him.

Hushen said there had been 21,000 telegrams and mailgrams on the pardon as of 11 a.m. yesterday and that they were running 6 to 1 against the pardon.

Within hours of the announcement by the White House press office that the possibility of pardoning Nixon administration officials was under review, dozens of members of Congress issued

critical statements.

Among them were senators of such diverse political viewpoints as John Sparkman, the conservative Alabama Democrat and Jacob Javits, the liberal New York Republican.

Representative Jerome Waldie (Dem-Calif.), who is a member of the House Judiciary Committee, declared that Mr. Ford's mere consideration of the pardons "brings into sharp question his capacity to govern."

Senator James Buckley (Republican conservative-N.Y.) said that selective clemency might be justified in some cases but should not be considered until individuals are tried and convicted. Barlier, Buckley issued a statement calling Mr. Ford's decision to pardon Mr. Nixon "premature."

Senator Walter Mondale (Dem-Minn.) said in a speech that he is planning to propose a constitutional amendment allowing Congress to overrule a presidential pardon by a two thirds vote of the House and Senate.

Mr. Ford did receive support yesterday from J. F. terHorst, his former press secretary, who resigned over Mr. Ford's decision to pardon Mr. Nixon.

In an interview on NBC's "Today Show," terHorst said, "Mercy, like justice, must be dispensed evenhandedly when it's done at a

presidential level. That would take in, I think, many of the defendants and some of those in prison as a result of offenses stemming from the same Watergate situation for which the former President received his pardon."

In Austin, Tex., governors attending the Southern Governor's Conference expressed solid opposition to a blanket pardon of those involved in Watergate cases.

Meanwhile, reaction continued here and elsewhere to Sunday's announcement that Mr. Ford had pardoned Mr. Nixon unconditionally.

Some Congressional Democrats were considering focusing their opposition to the pardon on the Ford administration's request for an appropriation of \$850,000 to pay various expenses of Mr. Nixon this year.

A Senate appropriations subcommittee is scheduled to open hearings on the request today. Subcommittee chairman, Joseph Montoya (Dem-N.M.) was said to support cuts in the request.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters, Elliott Richardson, the former attorney general, said he approved of the general idea of a pardon for Mr. Nixon but that he felt a harder bargain should have been struck for a full confession by the former president or outlining of the charges against him before the pardon was granted.