

Ford Weighing Watergate Pardons for All

By Carroll Kilpatrick

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A White House spokesman said yesterday that President Ford is weighing the matter of pardons for all Watergate defendants, setting of the second controversy in three days on the pardon issue.

Following the President's Sunday announcement that he had granted a complete pardon to former President Nixon, acting White House press secretary John W. Hushen said yesterday that Mr. Ford now has "under study"

the issue of pardons for those accused or convicted of Watergate crimes.

However, the spokesman said the President has reached no conclusion on the subject. He warned reporters against predicting the President's course of action in a matter that has embroiled the new administration in "the long national nightmare" that Mr. Ford had said was at an end.

A short time after Hushen's surprise statement, Philip W. Buchen, the President's counsel, startled reporters by acknowledging that he knew nothing about the study until informed about it

earlier in the day by Hushen and counselor Robert T. Hartmann.

Buchen said he had given the President no advice on the question of pardons for anyone but Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Ford's announcement Sunday of the Nixon pardon surprised the nation and led to the abrupt resignation of J. F. TerHorst as press secretary.

When a reporter asked for White House comment on a statement by Mrs. John W. Dean III asking equal treatment for Watergate defendants, Hushen made his statement that the matter was under discussion.

Dean, who was Mr. Nixon's principal accuser, is serving a one-to-four year sentence for his Watergate role.

In her statement, Mrs. Dean said:

"Mr. Nixon and his family are not the only ones who have suffered enough because of Watergate." She said she hoped the President "will not overlook those who have fully cooperated with the government in getting out the truth of Watergate to the American people."

"These individuals are also suffering because they told the truth which is

something we have yet to hear from Mr. Nixon."

Hushen, when asked if he fully understood the impact on the nation of the statement he had made, said he thought "those factors have been taken into account."

The President knew that the pardon of Mr. Nixon "would be controversial," Hushen said. "He still thinks it was right and that he will be proven right in the long run."

Mr. Ford held a long meeting with advisers late Monday and another meeting yesterday on his plan for con-

ditional amnesty for Vietnam war deserters and draft dodgers, the acting press secretary said.

Describing the problem of conditional amnesty as much more complex than originally believed, Hushen said the President's decision, once promised for yesterday, would be announced "no later than the end of the month."

When Hushen pledged that the President will live up to his promise to be accessible to newsmen, a reporter asked why Mr. Ford did not come to

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the press room and answer questions about the pardon issue instead of leaving it to others to try to clarify his thinking.

Hushen replied that there would be a presidential press conference soon but probably not this week.

In his first briefing since terHorst left, Hushen reasserted the Ford administration's commitment to candor and openness. He paid high tribute to terHorst and said he and the President wished terHorst well in his job as columnist for the Detroit News.

However, Hushen said he did not share terHorst's conviction that a press secretary should resign when he disagrees on a major policy issue. "A presidential spokesman is conveying the President's views and not his own," Hushen said.

Following Hushen's conference, Buchen entered the press room to answer questions on the pardon of the former President.

Buchen defended himself against a charge that he misled terHorst regard-

ing the President's intention on pardon.

On the basis of information Buchen gave him last week, terHorst told several reporters that the President was not planning to pardon his predecessor.

Denying that he had misinformed terHorst, Buchen acknowledged that it was possible the former press secretary might have been misled.

terHorst told him Buchen said that he had been asked in 1976 about Attorney General Borker, who went to San Clemente last week in connection with the pardon issue and the question of presidential tapes and records.

"I did not tell him [terHorst] that he was not out there discussing pardon," Buchen said. He said he did tell terHorst that Borker was discussing the question of the former President's tapes and records.

In other actions, the President:

• Met for more than an hour with former British Prime Minister Edward Heath. On leaving the White House, Heath said the President assured him he is "determined to maintain close cooperation with Europe." Heath said it

was "very valuable for me to meet" the President early in his administration.

• Announced that he would send a message to Congress in a few days specifying legislation he wants passed this year.

• Appointed Warren S. Rustand, 31, as his appointments secretary. Rustand was scheduling director for Mr. Ford when he was Vice President and was an all-American basketball player at the University of Arizona in the 1960s.

• Nominated the following to be U.S. delegates to the United Nations General Assembly, which opens Sept. 17: U.N. Ambassador John Scali; Deputy U.N. Representative W. Tapley Bennett Jr.; Sens. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) and Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) and former Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel (R-Calif.).

The President named Dixy Lee Ray, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, as head of the American delegation to the 18th general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna Sept. 18-20.