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David Says Nixon Feels He's Innocent

Washington

David Eisenhower said yesterday that emissaries from President Ford sought "some kind of confession" before deciding to pardon former President Nixon, but were refused.

"He wasn't willing to concede anything," Mr. Nixon's son-in-law said.

Eisenhower was asked whether Mr. Nixon accepted the White House view that guilt was implicit in his acceptance of a pardon, and he replied that the former President "views himself as an innocent man and continues to say so privately."

Mr. Ford's spokesmen have said there were no conditions on the pardon, and that Mr. Nixon's acceptance statement was welcome but had not been part of any agreement.

Eisenhower, who is married to Mr. Nixon's younger daughter, Julie, had a different view.

"As a matter of fact, the Ford people wanted a statement. The Ford people wanted some kind of confession from him," he said. "But he wasn't willing to concede anything on the legal issues."

Eisenhower said he thought Mr. Nixon had accepted the pardon "because I think he's tired and he wants to try to forget about it."

Eisenhower said there was some discussion before Mr. Nixon resigned about the possibility of pardoning himself and his associates involved in Watergate, but Mr. Nixon had rejected the idea.

Earlier yesterday, in an appearance on NBC's "Today" show, Eisenhower said Mr. Nixon would have refused to accept a pardon if it had been linked to an amnesty for Vietnam war resisters.

"Had the amnesty issue been tied directly to his pardon, he would have had no choice but to stand trial and he would have done so and refused a pardon," Eisenhower said.

Eisenhower also said that



UPI Telephoto
DAVID EISENHOWER
'I think he's tired'

the phlebitis in one leg which afflicted the former president in June has worsened.

"At his very moment, he is not feeling well. He has the leg elevated . . . the clot has moved above the knee and one leg is swollen about twice its normal size," Eisenhower said.

He told an interviewer that although he has not seen Mr. Nixon since the former president left Washington August 9, from telephone conversations and from those who have seen him he judged that his state of mind is "normal, under the circumstances"

He added later, his spirits are not great right now, "If there's no question about that."

United Press