

FORD AIDES SILENT ON LINK OF PARDON AND NIXON HEALTH

—SEP 14 1974

Hushen Says the President
Is More Concerned About
'Health of the Nation'
NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13—
Presidential spokesmen declined
today for the sixth straight day
to say specifically how reports
of former President Richard M.
Nixon's poor health figured in
the President's decision to pardon
Mr. Nixon only a few days
after Mr. Ford had indicated he
would await legal process before
making a decision.

"The President is of course
concerned about the former
President's health," said John
W. Hushen, the deputy press
secretary, in response to questions,
"but the health of the
nation is more important than
the health of one man, and
that's his paramount concern."

But most of the questions
about the circumstances leading
to the pardon, questions that
had been asked all week, went
unanswered, and White House
observers found the lack of
answers a sharp contrast to
the atmosphere of candor that
marked the Ford Administration's
first weeks.

Meanwhile, a member of
Congress who visited President
Ford this week quoted him as
saying he had pardoned the
former President because, because,
as the Congressman conveyed
his words, Mr. Nixon otherwise
"would go off the deep end."

Eisenhower Worried

The member of Congress,
who asked that his name not
be used, said that the Mr.
Nixon's son-in-law, David
Eisenhower, told President
Ford last week that he was
deeply worried about the
former President.

Mr. Ford was convinced
by Mr. Eisenhower that "one
minute he is in despair and
the next in Euphoria," the
Congressman said, adding
that the President told him,
"I had to do it."

A United Press International
report said that the President,
at a session with 11 Republican
candidates for Governor
today, said that he had not

yet disclosed all of his reasons
for deciding to pardon his
predecessor. Gov. Winfield
Dunn of Tennessee said after
the meeting that Mr. Ford had
told the group he "might be
able to explain in the not-too-
distant future a number of things"
about the pardon issue.

Reports on Decision

There have been a number
of reports recently that Mr.
Ford had been influenced in his
decision to pardon Mr. Nixon
by reports of the former President's
poor health. In his statement
on the pardon Mr. Ford said
that the charges hanging over
Mr. Nixon's head threatened
his health, but his spokesmen
have said repeatedly that
it was based on reports from
newspapers and other sources,
not from the Nixon family.

However, Mr. Ford apparently
made no effort to obtain
medical certification of Mr.
Nixon's condition and his
spokesmen have repeatedly
sought to play down the health

Continued on Page 12, Column 5

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

issue as the compelling reason
for the pardon.

Mr. Nixon's family, before
and after the pardon, have
been conducting what seemed
to be a public campaign to
picture the former President
as in poor health. Mr. Eisenhower
made a series of television
appearances yesterday in which
he said that Mr. Nixon's "spirits
are not great" and that his
leg was swollen from phlebitis.

Mr. Nixon developed phlebitis
in early June, just before
his trip to the Middle East.

Mr. Hushen indicated that
Mr. Ford had not had any
reports from any physician
who may have seen Mr. Nixon,
but he said that he had recently
asked the chief White House
physician, Rear Adm. William
M. Lukash, to keep him informed
on any changes in Mr. Nixon's
health.

The questioning occurred
before Dr. Walter Tkach, Mr.
Nixon's physician, confirmed
in California today that the
former President had developed
a new blood clot in his leg.

The former President's health
and emotional stability were
a subject of controversy even
before he left the White House
on Aug. 9. In his last months
in office and since his resignation
there have been conflicting
reports as to how he was
bearing up under the severe

TURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1974



Associated Press

ON A PICNIC AT THE BEACH; Richard M. Nixon posing for Dwight Brill, an amateur photographer, on the beach near Ventura, Calif., on Aug. 14. Mr. Nixon, his daughter Tricia and her husband, Edward F. Cox, stopped to picnic at a sparsely populated area when Mr. Brill asked permission to take pictures. Mr. Nixon had resigned as President five days earlier. This and other photos by Mr. Brill were made available yesterday.

criticism of his conduct in the
Watergate scandals.

Then, as in the last few
weeks, some persons who saw
Mr. Nixon reported him to be
in excellent spirits, while others
reported him to be depressed
and preoccupied.

When he was in office, however,
his friends and members of
his family reported consistently
that he was in the best of
condition. Their reports of his
poor health and depression have
come since he resigned.