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Stark losing out in Rebozo probe

The pardoning of former President Nixon may have short circuited a crackdown on his Florida banker friend, C. G. "Bebe" Rebozo.

Federal action against Rebozo had been urged by Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark Jr., former East Bay banker. The Oakland Democrat wanted Rebozo supended as president and chairman of the Key Biscayne Bank and Trust Co. until an inquiry is completed into his suspected role in "laundering" political funds.

This was a complex process of concealing the character of contributions which Rebozo, according to the Watergate Grand Jury, diverted to his own and Nixon's personal use.

Stark, a member of the House Banking and Currency Committee, called for the suspension in a wire to Chairman Frank Wille of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Yesterday, though, Stark presumably held little hope. He said that in pardoning Nixon, President Ford "has committed the ultimate Watergate coverup."

-Sydney Kossen