

House Probe Of the Pardon

Washington

A House judiciary subcommittee will conduct hearings, starting Tuesday, on the pardon of former President Nixon and will consider legislation designed to counter some of its effects.

Subcommittee chairman William L. Hungate (Dem.-Mo.) said yesterday that he has written President Ford asking for information about the "time, manner and circumstances" of the pardon and about any negotiations between the White House and Mr. Nixon that preceded it.

Hungate also wrote to Mr. Ford and special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski, requesting that they defer any further action on Watergate tapes and documents of the former President until Congress has had a chance to study the matter.

Besides investigating the pardon, the subcommittee will consider legislation that would authorize Jaworski to issue a public report on Mr. Nixon's involvement in Watergate-related matters.

The panel also will consider legislation to abrogate or alter an agreement reached between the White House and Mr. Nixon at the time of the pardon.

Under the pact, Mr. Ford agreed to turn Watergate tapes and documents from the Nixon administration over to the former President on the condition that they be held available for subpoena in various Watergate-related criminal cases. But Mr. Nixon would keep possession of the materials and after a certain period of time, or in the event of his death, they would either become his property or be destroyed.

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