

## Goldwater Says Pardon Of Nixon Was 'Premature'

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 (UPI)—Senator Barry Goldwater said today that President Ford's grant of an unconditional pardon to former President Richard M. Nixon was "premature."

"There was bad reaction," the Arizona Republican told reporters after a meeting with Mr. Ford. "I think most people would have settled for it later on." But he added, "It will die down."

Senator Goldwater gave an ardent defense of Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House chief of staff who will leave soon to become the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

After praising General Haig, the Senator became irate when asked about the possibility of Senate hearings on the General's fitness for the N.A.T.O. command. He said the hearings would be acceptable only if they did not go into matters concerning Mr. Nixon and the Watergate scandal.