

Rocky's View On the Power Of Pardon

Washington

Vice president-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller indicated yesterday it would have been his "inclination" to have allowed former President Noxon to be prosecuted before granting him a full pardon.

Rockefeller offered his views on President Ford's decision to grant Mr. Nixon an unconditional pardon in response to a question by Chairman Howard Cannon (Dem-Nev.) of the Senate Rules Committee that is conducting confirmation hearings on Rockefeller.

Cannon said Mr. Ford, in his confirmation hearings as vice president last year, said he "didn't think the American people would stand" for a pardon of Mr. Nixon.

"Would you use the pardon power to prevent or terminate any investigation or prosecution of your predecessor if you became President?" Cannon asked.

"My total inclination is to say no," Rockefeller said. "But I don't want to get into the box my predecessor did. There may be circumstances I don't know. But I share totally the feeling you do — to let the judicial process run."

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