

From transcript of Ford's news conference 26 Feb 75.  
Hollywood, Florida:

Question 12. Watergate Pardons.

Q. Mr. President, good morning. I wonder now that the sentences have been handed down in the Watergate case against former top Administration figures how you would feel on the issue of pardon for those men, especially in the light of their contention that they had done nothing that is any more wrong than the President under whom they served.

A. Well it seems to me, No. 1, since they are appealing their sentencing, that it would be inappropriate for me to make any comment one way or another.

And, No. 2, if and when the time comes, the proper thing for them to do would be to apply in the regular procedure or process, which is through the pardon attorney in the Department of Justice.

Q. Without getting into specific cases, on the general premise, would you be sympathetic more in these particular circumstances? A. I don't think it would be appropriate to make a comment in that regard because they are limited in number and I would not want to prejudice their current appeal by any comment that I might make.

Question 13. Oil Import Program. ....