

House Panel Weighs A New Investigation Of the Nixon Pardon

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (Reuters) — A Congressional subcommittee that heard President Ford testify on his pardon for former President Richard M. Nixon is to meet next Wednesday to decide whether to open an investigation into Mr. Ford's decision.

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Demands for an inquiry follow reports in The Washington Post that President Nixon's White House chief of staff, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., received a private assurance from Mr. Ford that a pardon would be granted.

Mr. Ford pardoned the former President on Sept. 8, 1974, one month after he resigned from office in the face of probable impeachment for his role in the Watergate scandals. The pardon ruled out the possibility that Mr. Nixon would face prosecution for alleged Watergate offenses.

On Oct. 17, 1974, Mr. Ford told the subcommittee that the former President had not raised the question of a pardon with him.

Representative Elizabeth Holtzman, Democrat of Brooklyn, who has long urged an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the pardon, said it was clear that when Mr. Ford testified he did not tell the full story.

An aide to Miss Holtzman said today that a majority of the subcommittee was in favor of opening an investigation.

According to The Washington Post, former Nixon counsel Leonard Garment, drafted a memo urging a pardon on Aug. 28, 1974. 12 FEB 76

The Post also said that 10 days before the pardon was granted, Mr. Nixon's chief speech writer, Raymond Price, drafted a two-and-one-half page statement announcing the pardon.

* Bob Woodward, author of the article (WXP 12 Feb) uses the term "10 days" to refer to 28 Aug; this is the same day Garment drafted his memo.