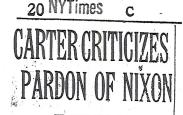
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Refuses to Score Ford, but Terms Action 'Improper'

Without a Trial St Senter -By DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND

Special to The New York Times

Special to The New York Times PLAINS, Ga. July 20—Jimmy Cartes sharply disagreed today with President Ford's 1974 par-don; of President Nixon before what the Democratic nominee termed Mr. Nixon's "inevitable conviction" in an "open trial." "With contending that he did While contending that he did not "criffcize" President Ford for the pardon," Mr. Carter termed it "improper or ill-advised."

The pardon issue was raised as Mr. Carter held his first formal news conference since accepting the Democratic Presi-dential nomination in New York City flast week.

City last week. As he squinted into the early afternoon sun from the steps of the 55-year-old red brick high school he had attended here, Mr. Carter was asked to comment on President Ford's remark at a news conference yesterday that whether the par-don became a campaign issue was "up to the American peo-ple," and that he "would do it again" under the same circum-stances.

again" under the same circum-stances. "Had I been President," the Democratic nominee replied, "I would not have pardoned Pres-ident Nixon until after the trial had been completed in order to let all the facts relating to his crimes be known." He declared that he did not

let all the facts relating to his crimes be known." He declared that he did not question President Ford's mu-tives or intend to criticize him "because I take him at his word that he did it in his opinion to end as quickly as possible the Watergate tragedy and hc-cause he thought it was the best thing to do." "I don't think there was any secret deal made between Presi-dent Nixon and President Ford," Mr. Carter continued, "although they had always been very close. President Ford was very deeply indebted to President Nixon for choosing him to be the future President." "Pressed further for his reac-

the future President." Pressed further for his reac-tion to Mr. Ford's statement that he would do the same thing again, Mr. Carter replied: "I still think that the action he took was improper or ill-advised action. I would not have done it, but I honor a's right to make that decision. He was there with the facts."

In response to another question, Mr. Carter said that he now believed that President Ford was "the more likely nominee" of the Republican party at its convention next month than was his challenger, Ronald Reagan.
He said that was his assumption in planning his own campagn, which began in earnest at his home here this afternoon with several f his top political advisers and an aide to Senator Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, running mate. He said that we'r, that "contingencies" were being planned 'so we will be prepared for either eventuality."
Asked how his campaign might differ depending up who his rival was, he said:"

"I would guess the campaign his fival was, of course, would certainly be different. President, Ford's record as President, Ford's record as President, Ford's record as President, Ford's record as President, To as the insult to govern, would not be a major issue obviously if he did not get the nomination."
As for the issues that might be different and the did not get the nomination."

AS for the issues that might beraised against a Reagan con-didacy, Mr. Carter said: "" think the inclination of Governor Reagan to ge militari-ly involved in Panama, in Leba-

ly involved in Panama, in Leba-non, in Rhodesia, would cer-tainly be an issue if he should be the nomice. It would not be an issue of President Ford should be the nominee." Mr. Carter added that his polis "do not indicate any strength on the part of Gover-nor Reagan that would be ex-traordinary even in his home state" and that "at this point I, ahead of both of them." Mr. Carter was asked his comments today on the Nixon pardon and Senator Mondale's

Mr. Carter was asked his comments today on the Nixon pardon and Senator Mondale's reference to the pardon in his acceptance speech last Thurs-day night in Madison Square Garden did not represent "di-rect criticism" despite Mr. Carter's insistence that he was not making the pardon a cam-paign issue. If we never raised the question of the pardon at all myself and I don't intend to." Mr. Carter said. "Tm not wiping the par-don out of the national con-sciousness. When you ask me a question about the pardon and then criticize me for an-swering the question, now that's a little improper." He added that he thought "the evidence should have been presented to the American peo-ple in an open trial and after the trial and, I think, the inevitable conviction of Presi-dent Nixon, then I would have reserved the right to pardon him then." In his acceptance speech at the conventnion, Senator, Mon-

In his acceptance speech at the conventnion, Senator Mondale, alluded to Watergate and referred to the pardon, declar-ing that "we have just lived through the worst political scandal in American history' and are now led by a President who pardoned the parts who pardoned the person who did it."

Mr. Carter was asked wheth-er Senator Mondale would con-tinue to raise the pardon issue in the campaign.

Asked if he had "reserva-Asked if ne man modele tion. tions" about Senator Mondale tion. Mr. continuing to criticize the par-

continuing to criticize the par-don, he'said: "I would not try to dominate Senator Mondale. I personally think that my position on the pardon is preferable from a po-litical view point. The Ameri-can people know who pardoned President Nixon. They know the circumstances involved in the pardon. They don't need to have it raised for political ad-vantage by a candidate. I think they would resent it if it were and so I'll maintain the same position that I've had for the last five or six months when this question had been put to me." In response to other

In response to other ques-tions, Mr. Carter said:

tions, Mr. Carter saud: "He did not think there was anything "illegal" or "improp-er" about Senator Mondale's acknowledged support for spe-cial legislation that would give a tax break to Investors Diver-sified Services, a Minnesota firm

firm. The did not see "anything wrong or improper" about his pollster, Patrick Cadell, having a contract with Saudi Arabia subscribers where most of his income is derived." The believed the Internation-al Olympic Committee ought to "establish rules for the recogni-tion of participants in the

"establish rules for the recogni-tion of participants in the Olympic Games" and that the "host government should stay" out of that decision," a criti-cism of Canada's setting of the c

terms for Taiwan's participa-