

OPINION

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Pardon an issue? better bet on it

JIMMY CARTER says he won't make President Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon a campaign issue because he thinks Mr. Ford acted in good conscience. However, the Democratic nominee still believes the pardon was "improper and ill-advised."

But Sen. Walter Mondale, Carter's running mate, plans to speak out against the pardon and Carter says he has no intention of silencing Mondale on that or any other subject.

The President says it is "up to the American people" to decide whether the pardon should be a campaign issue.

We agree with Carter's view on Mr. Ford's sincerity and think the pardon is water over the dam. But it would be

less than realistic to think that the pardon and Watergate will go away as issues.

Mr. Ford says he issued the pardon in the "national interest," a phrase with a familiar ring. According to Nixon, everything done in the Watergate affair was in the "national interest."

Where does the national interest begin and where does it end? The President was right in saying he would let the people decide, but we'll have to wait until election night for the answer.

The Gallup poll provided a clue. The latest survey reported that 55 per cent think Ford did the "wrong thing" in granting the pardon, while 35 per cent thought he was right.