

O'Brien Says Pardon Of Nixon Beat Ford

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SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Nov. 4 (AP)—President Ford's pardon of former President Richard M. Nixon was a likely cause of Mr. Ford's loss to Jimmy Carter, says Lawrence F. O'Brien, former Democratic national chairman.

Mr. O'Brien was chairman when the police arrested burglars in 1972 at the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex in Washington.

"If I had to put my finger on one issue" that led to Mr. Ford's loss Tuesday, "I'd put my finger on the pardon," he said today.

"Ford's most grievous error was his premature pardon of Nixon. He was never able to live that down or adequately explain it. Not that I wanted to see Nixon in jail, but the pardon prevented the public from knowing the full record of Watergate."

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