

Hunt's Parole Bid Referred To Commission by Panel

By Warren Brown

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A review panel of the U.S. Parole Commission declined yesterday to grant parole to convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

Instead, the four-member panel referred Hunt's request to the full commission, which has seven members. The commission is expected to consider the request Jan. 25 in Burlingame, Calif., according to Dean St. Dennis, a Justice Department spokesman.

The review panel—which has authority to reject or grant parole—also voted yesterday to reject a parole application for David S. Fine, 24, who was sentenced last Aug. 6 to seven years in federal prison on charges stemming from a fatal bombing at the University of Wisconsin's Madison campus in 1970.

St. Dennis said the review panel cited the publicity and prominence of Hunt's case in its decision to put it before the full commission of regional and national commissioners.

Generally, parole applications are reviewed by commission examiners or by review panels and do not reach the full commission for a decision. However, in some prominent cases, such

as Hunt's, the decision will go to the full Parole Commission.

William A. Snyder Jr., Hunt's lawyer in Baltimore, said he was disappointed by the review panel's decision.

"If he were just an ordinary inmate, his case would have been decided back in November," he said.

Snyder said Hunt was granted a hearing by a regional parole commissioner on Nov. 4. "But the regional commissioner bucked it up to the national commissioners [the review panel] and now they want the full commission to consider it," he said.

Snyder said Hunt was dejected yesterday on learning the review panel's decision.

Hunt pleaded guilty Jan. 11, 1973, to charges of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping stemming from the break-in June 17, 1972, at Democratic National Committee Headquarters in the Watergate. On Nov. 9, 1973, he was fined \$10,000 and sentenced to a prison term of 30 months to eight years.

Hunt later filed a motion to withdraw his guilty plea and was released from prison on Jan. 2, 1974, pending the outcome of his appeal. The appeal was denied Feb. 25, 1975. Two months later, he returned to a federal prison camp at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to continue his term.