Ehrlichman Enters Jail Voluntarily

SAFFORD, Ariz. (AP) — John D. Ehrlichman, highest ranking member of the Nixon administration to go to jail, will be treated "no better or no worse than anyone else" at the Swift Trail Federal Prison Camp here, officials say.

The 51-year-old former No. 2 adviser to Richard Nixon spent his first night in a barracks-like dormitory at this minimum-security desert prison. There are no bars or fences here, and prisoners are called by their names instead of wearing numbers.

One of Ehrlichman's daughters drove him to the camp at the base of 10,000-foot Mt. Graham yesterday, after he received judicial permission to begin serving sentences for two Watergate convictions.

He had decided not to wait for a review of his case by the U. S. Supreme Court, which he hopes will reverse the convictions. Unless he wins a reversal, or his sentence is reduced at the discretion of his trial judge, Ehrlichman must serve 2½ years before he can seek parole.

The balding Ehrlichman, who had grown a thick beard in the months after the Watergate coverup trial, arrived at the prison clean shaven. Federal prison rules prohibit beards.

Camp administrator John Haddin said Ehrlichman would be placed in the general work pool for two weeks, and then given an assignment that suits his qualifications. Prison factories make trousers and leather gloves, with glove sales reaching \$970,000 last year.

Haddin said glove-making is a "pretty popular assignment here because men can earn money at the job. The 100 men who make the gloves sit at sewing machines to do their work."

The prison has a few private ooms, but most inmates live in rmitories with 55 to 60 beds, ddin said.

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Volunteers are trained in fighting forest fires, and more than 100 inmates fought fires in national forests in the summer of 1976.

Because the camp is minimum security, the walls are low and serve mainly for landscaping.

"If they decide to go, they go," said Haddin. "Then we apprehend them and send them to a tighter, institution."

Ehrlichman, who was Nixon's domestic counselor, is serving concurrent sentences of 20 months to 5 years in the so-called White. House "plumbers" case and 30 months to 8 years in the Watergate coverup. His codefendants in the latter, former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell and former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman, remain free pending appeal.