

Watergate cons ask shortened jail terms

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WASHINGTON (AP) — John N. Mitchell and H.R. Haldeman, the last and best-known of the Watergate convicts, appealed to the full U.S. Parole Commission on Wednesday to speed up their release from prison.

The commission did not announce its decisions immediately because of a heavy volume of other cases. A spokesman said Mitchell and Haldeman might not be told the outcome until Friday.

A smaller parole panel recently set Haldeman's release date for Dec. 20 and Mitchell's for Jan. 19. The two Nixon administration figures are appealing that decision.

Haldeman was White House chief of staff and Mitchell was attorney general and twice Nixon's campaign manager.

By the scheduled release date,

Haldeman will have served 18 months at the minimum security prison in Lompoc, Calif., and Mitchell will be credited with having served 19 months, although only 14 months of it will have been spent in the institution at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Mitchell was out on medical furlough the rest of the time.

Each man was convicted of conspiring to obstruct justice and of obstructing justice in the cover-up of White House involvement in the Watergate affair, and of multiple counts of lying under oath.

They were the last of 25 men sentenced to prison, to begin their terms — and they remain the only Watergate defendants still imprisoned. The third man convicted with them, John D. Ehrlichman, completed 18 months in April and was released.