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Mitchell Loses Bid for Early Release

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—U.S. District Court Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. rejected former attorney general John N. Mitchell's claim of "bias and vindictiveness" by the U.S. Parole Commission, and refused yesterday to order Mitchell's early release from prison.

Johnson denied Mitchell's three challenges of the commission's decision not to parole him until next Jan. 19. Johnson also refused to grant Mitchell a hearing on his claims.

Regional parole commissioners, meeting in Atlanta, recommended on July 5 either that Mitchell be paroled on Aug. 19 or that his case be considered by the national commissioners as an "original jurisdiction" case.

On July 20, the national commissioners changed the classification of Mitchell's offense from "moderate" to "high" severity and ordered him released on parole on Jan. 19.

Mitchell then sued in federal court here, saying the panel did not properly credit him with five months of medical furlough time, penalized him for appealing the decision of the regional commissioners and denied him due process because one of the commissioners was biased against him.

Mitchell is serving a 1- to 4-year sentence at the federal prison camp at Maxwell Air Force Base here for his role in the Watergate cover-up.