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Barker Released From Federal Jail

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernard L. Barker, the right side of his face paralyzed from what he said was exposure to cold while serving his Watergate sentence, was freed Friday to await the outcome of his appeal.

Barker, one of the five Watergate defendants who pleaded guilty to burglary, conspiracy and wiretapping in the break-in of Democratic party headquarters, could barely speak because of the paralysis.

He said a doctor at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where he has been imprisoned since early November, diagnosed the ailment as Bell's palsy.

He said it was caused by exposure to cold while he was digging a ditch at Eglin a week or 10 days ago.

Officials at Eglin could not be reached immediately for comment.

The disease impairs speech and causes the affected eye to water because the eyelid muscles don't work properly.

Barker was asked whether he would now participate in the Watergate burglary.

When he testified at the Senate Watergate committee hearing, the 56-year-old Barker said he was convinced at the time of the burglary and on the day that he testified "that what I did at that time was correct."

On Friday he said somewhat the same thing.

"I believe today that nothing

has shown me any different from the things I believed. I was recruited for the service of my country and I could never refuse that service," he said.

"I'm very very glad to be out."

Barker was the third Watergate defendant to be freed pending appeal.

E. Howard Hunt, who recruited Barker and the three others for the June 17, 1972 break-in, was released Wednesday and James W. McCord has been free on \$5,000 bond.

Three others, Eugenio R. Martinez, Virgilio R. Gonzalez and Frank A. Sturgis are still at Eglin pending the decision a parole board will make in Washington next Monday.

Barker said he had served a total of one year and 19 days since the days of his arrest. He was sentenced on Nov. 9 to serve a minimum of 18 months to 6 years.

His wife, Clara, arrived Thursday night from Miami to be with their daughter Maria-Elena Moffett who lives in a Washington suburb.

Mrs. Barker said she and her husband planned to leave for Miami later Friday night.

Barker owned a real estate company in Miami before the Watergate incident. He said he has an interest in a condominium being built in Miami and he will devote his time to that.