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WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 — E. Howard Hunt Jr., looking frail and wan after serving more than 10 months in a Federal prison for his part in the Watergate bugging conspiracy, was released without bail today to await a decision on his appeal of his conviction.

The former Central Intelligence Agency operative, who pleaded guilty a year ago to helping plan the bugging of the Democratic party headquarters here, was ordered freed last Friday by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia pending action on his request that his plea be withdrawn and the case against him be dismissed.

Shortly after Mr. Hunt, accompanied by two Federal marshals, began a four-hour drive to Washington from the Federal prison camp at Allenwood, Pa., Bernard L. Barker, the second of the seven original Watergate conspirators who was also freed temporarily by the court, was taken from custody at Eglin Air Force Base near Miami and flown to Washington.

**Barker to be Freed Today**

Mr. Barker, the admitted leader of the Watergate break-in team that was arrested by the police on June 17, 1972, will be processed and released tomorrow, court officials said. He has asked the United States Court of Appeals here to permit him to change his plea from guilty to not guilty and to grant him a new trial.

Like Mr. Hunt, Mr. Barker will be freed on his own recognizance — without bail. Mr. Hunt, who was accused of having recruited Mr. Barker, whom he knew from his days as a C.I.A. agent, as a participant in the Watergate burglary, was sentenced in November to from 30 months to eight years in prison and fined \$10,000. Mr. Barker was sentenced to 18 months to six years in prison and not fined.

As Mr. Hunt was led, hands manacled at his waist, into the Federal Courthouse today, the former White House consultant and writer of spy novels declined to answer reporters' questions about rumors that he has not yet disclosed all he knows about the Nixon Administration scandals.

Obviously fatigued and with a day's growth of white stubble on his cheeks, the 55-year-old Mr. Hunt, who seems considerably older than a year ago, nevertheless appeared buoyed by his impending release.

Joking quietly with reporters while he waited to sign a

**Barker Is Due Out Today**

personal recognizance bond, he remarked that the trip from Allenwood had seemed to him "like it took about a week." Asked whether the marshals had observed the speed limit during the drive, Mr. Hunt replied, "I wasn't watching the speedometer."

Along with dark glasses and a straw hat, the seemingly ever-present Hunt pipe was a trademark during his early public appearances in the Watergate investigation. The pipe made a reappearance today, soon after the manacles were removed, and was laid down only when he raised his hand to swear that he would observe the conditions of his release.

James R. Pace, who heads the United States Probation office here, said that these would include visits to his office "about once a month." After a half-hour meeting with Mr. Hunt, Mr. Pace described him as "very alert."

He added that Mr. Hunt had said little about his future plans, except to mention that he had "a few odds and ends he wants to tie up in connection with his writing." Some of his more than 40 novels have recently been re-issued.

Before being whisked away in an expensive foreign sedan, the one-time spy told newsmen that he wished to thank publicly the "thousands of concerned Americans" who had sent him letters and telegrams

during his imprisonment — something, he said, that had made it "far more bearable."

Mr. Hunt's lawyers are arguing in his appeal that his conviction be reversed because of what they contend was improper conduct on the part of the Government. In particular, they cite documents that were the Executive Office Building taken from Mr. Hunt's safe in and were destroyed by L. Patrick Gray 3d, the former acting head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Barker contends in his appeal that he entered his guilty plea at a time when he was under the impression that the Watergate break-in was a na-

tional security operation, and was thus unable to present a defense for his admitted actions.

In another development, lawyers for Dwight L. Chapin, President Nixon's former appointment secretary, filed a motion in United States District Court today for a one-month postponement of his trial on charges of lying to the Watergate grand jury.

Mr. Chapin's trial had been scheduled to begin on Feb. 19, but a spokesman for the special Watergate prosecutor's office reportedly said that the prosecutor would not oppose the request for more time to prepare Mr. Chapin's defense.



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**E. Howard Hunt Jr. leaving court in Washington, free pending appeal.**