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A Break for Watergate

Burglar

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A nine-month jail term handed convicted Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis on charges of shipping stolen cars to Mexico was set aside yesterday because of his cooperation with federal narcotic agents.

Instead, a federal judge ordered him placed on probation.

U.S. Customs and Drug Enforcement Administration agents testified in behalf of Sturgis and Jerry Buchanan at yesterday's hearing. Atkins also set aside Buchanan's five-year jail term and placed both men on a year's probation.

Buchanan was the key government witness in the conviction earlier this month of Kenneth Bernstein on narcotics smuggling charges here.

Sturgis and Buchanan had been convicted of conspiring to ship stolen cars to Mexico. Sturgis has denied the charge and claimed his activities were known to the government and done at its request.

Sturgis has served 15 months in jail on his Watergate conviction but having lost an appeal faces another six months in prison unless Sirica sets aside the sentence.

United Press
