



AP Wirephoto

E. HOWARD HUNT OUTSIDE COURT
Leader of the break-in talked to press

Watergate's Hunt Freed From Jail

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Washington

E. Howard Hunt Jr., unshaven and carrying his possessions in a paper bag, was freed from jail yesterday, pending the outcome of his appeal of his conviction for masterminding the Watergate break-in.

Hunt, a former White House aide, served ten months and five days for his part in the break-in at Democratic national headquarters.

Bernard L. Barker, the foreman of the burglary team, is to be released from Eglin federal prison at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., today and be flown to Washington. He also is appealing his case.

Speaking briefly outside the U. S. district courthouse,

Hunt expressed appreciation to the court of appeals for granting him freedom, to his attorneys and to "the many thousands of concerned Americans" he said had communicated with him.

"This has made my incarceration far more bearable," he said.

Hunt, wearing a brown sport coat, green slacks, a white shirt open at the neck and a two or three-day beard, was driven away to be reunited with his children.

Hunt spent about an hour with the District Court clerk before whom he swore to abide by the conditions of his release, and with the probation officer who explained the conditions of his release. He was freed on personal bond.

Of the 19 White House aides, corporation executives and others who have pleaded guilty or been found guilty in connection with 1972 campaign violations, only five remain in jail. Three of these are Cuban-Americans.

The U. S. Court of Appeals Friday ordered Hunt and Barker released pending disposition of their appeals. Both men have cited family reasons.

Hunt's wife was killed in a commercial airline crash in Chicago in December 1972, and his four children have been living in suburban Washington.

United Press