

Bernard Barker Freed-- Side of Face Paralyzed

Washington

Bernard L. Barker, one side of his face paralyzed from what he said was exposure to cold while serving his Watergate prison sentence, was freed yesterday 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 to exposure to cold while he was digging a ditch at Eglin a week or ten days ago.

Officials at Eglin could not be reached for comment.

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

Barker was released from Eglin into the custody of U.S. marshals who accompanied him to Washington for a hearing before a Federal judge on his bond arrangement.

Barker had been scheduled for release Thursday, but was held overnight when fog grounded the marshals' plane. He served one year and 19 days of an 18-month to six-year term.

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."

Yesterday he said somewhat the same thing.

"I believe today that nothing has shown me any different from the things I be-



UPI Telephoto

Bernard Barker, the side of his face twisted with paralysis, left a Washington court with his wife

lieved. 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," he said. "I have always had great faith in the ultimate justice in our system."

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 on Wednesday and James W. McCord has been free on \$5000 bond. 2 JAN

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 Monday. 7 JAN

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