

Hunt Is Freed Pending Appeal

Former White House aide E. Howard Hunt Jr. was released from prison yesterday pending outcome of his appeal after serving less than one year for masterminding the Watergate breakin.

Bernard L. Barker, the foreman of the burglary team, also appealing, was scheduled to be released from Eglin Federal Prison at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., today and be flown here.

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.

Hunt left the federal prison camp at Allenwood, Pa., at 11:40 a.m. in the custody of two federal marshals who drove him to Washington for appearances before the U.S. District Court clerk for execution of his personal bond and the probation officer who informed him of the conditions of his release.

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. Barker has lost his business and his only daughter has been seeking his release.

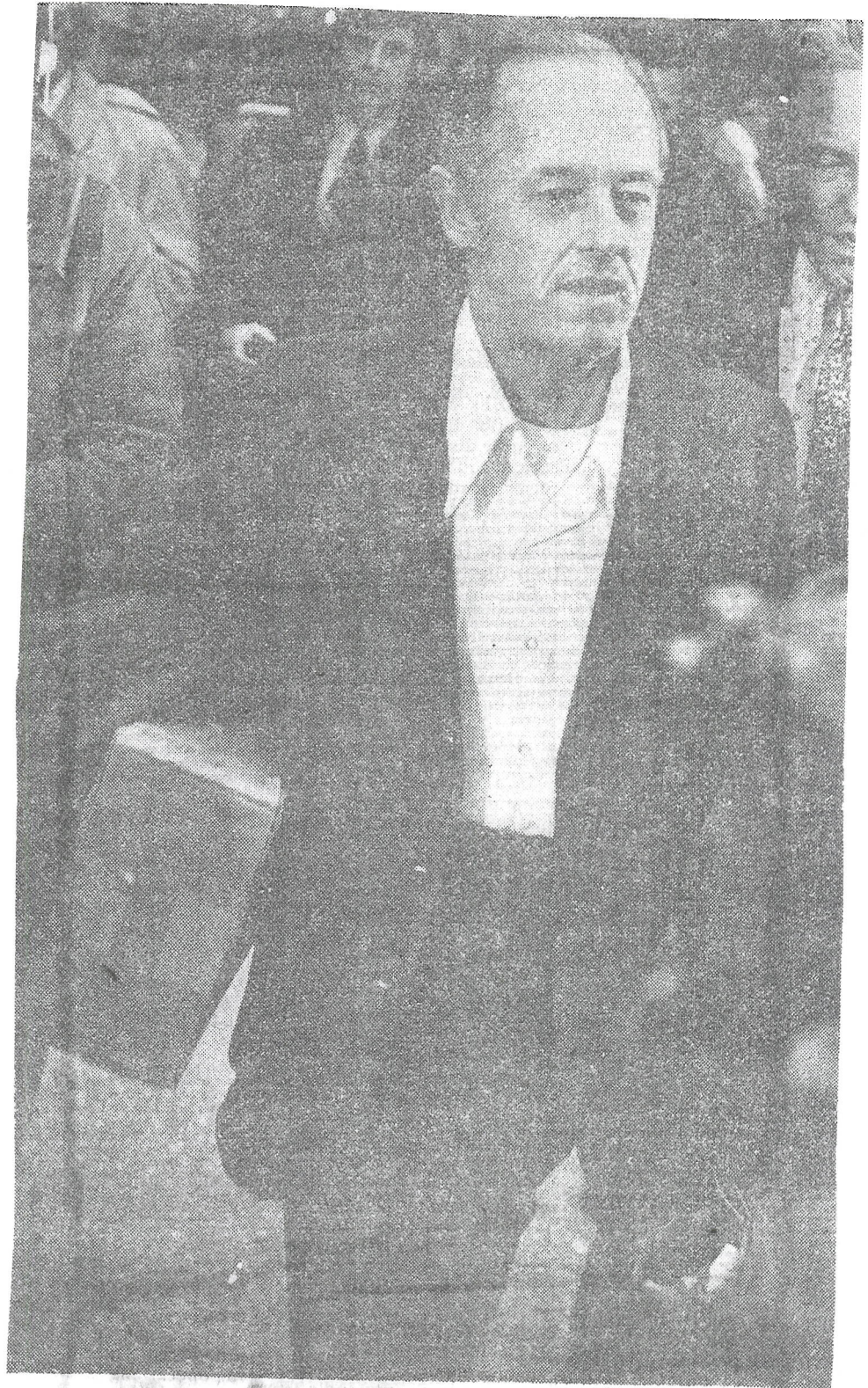
Former White House aides John W. Dean III, Jeb S. Magruder, Egil Krogh Jr. and Frederick C. LaRue and the heads of seven corporations either pleaded or were found guilty. All are free.

Of the original seven Watergate defendants, in addition to Hunt and Barker, James W. McCord Jr., former security officer for the Committee to re-elect the President and the electronics expert on the break-in team, is free.

G. Gordon Liddy, former White House aide and CRP finance counsel and the other mastermind of the break-in, is in District Jail for refusal to testify before a federal grand jury.

Eugenio Martinez, Frank Sturgis and Virgilio Gonzalez, Cuban-American patriots who were recruited by Barker and Hunt, went on trial one year ago and are in prison. The federal parole board is expected to rule Monday on their requests for freedom.

Donald H. Segretti, former Treasury Department lawyer, is serving six months in prison for distribution of illegal campaign literature.



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

HUNT FREE PENDING APPEAL — Former White House aide E. Howard Hunt Jr. leaves District Court building with possessions in a box and a bag. He was freed from prison yesterday, after serving less than a year, pending appeal. Story, A8.

Hunt, 54, was a CIA agent for 19 years before going to the White House in 1971. Barker, 56, was an American born in Cuba, a prisoner of war in World War I, and a Miami real estate dealer.

At the time of the June 17, 1972, break-in at the Democratic national offices, Hunt was in the area of the Watergate complex. Barker, McCord and the other three Cuban-Americans were inside.