SFChronicle Prison Release Delayed

Washington

Bad weather prevented the release yesterday of Bernard L. Barker, convicted leader of the Watergate burglary team, from prison pending outcome of his appeal.

Barker, 56, who once testified he was performing "a service to my country" when he took part in the break-in at Democratic national headquarters June 17, 1972, was supposed to be flown from a federal prison farm at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to Washington, where officials stood ready to process his release.

But federal marshals said

bad weather would prevent his departure by air until today.

Former White House aide E. Howard Hunt Jr., the man who recruited Barker for the Watergate break-in, was released on personal bond Wednesday. The U.S. court of appeals ordered the men released pending the outcome of their appeals.

United Press