

EX-CONVICT TO FIGHT

U.S. PARDON RULES

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (AP)—
A former convict who helped
organize a national prison re-
form group has filed suit chal-
lenging the constitutionality of
Federal pardon regulations.

C. Edward Lawrenson, exe-
cutive director of the National
Association for Justice, asked a
Federal court to overturn the
Justice Department rules de-
termining which convicts are eli-
gible for Presidential pardons.

The rules say that no indivi-
dual will be considered for a
pardon until at least three
years after his release from pri-
son, or three years after the
date of conviction if no prison
sentence was imposed.

Mr. Lawrenson's attorneys
cited President Ford's uncondi-
tional pardon of former Presi-
dent Richard M. Nixon as
evidence that the regulations
are unfair because they are not
applied to every case.

Mr. Ford pardoned Mr. Nixon
for all crimes he may have
committed while he was Presi-
dent even though he had not
been charged, tried and con-
victed of a crime. The pardon
was granted while Watergate
Prosecutors were considering
whether to bring charges
against Mr. Nixon for his role
in the Watergate cover-up.