

## EX-CONVICT TO FIGHT

### U.S. PARDON RULES

NY Times DEC 6 1974

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'