

Ex-Nixon Aide Gets 4-Month Jail Term

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP) —Edward L. Morgan, a lawyer who illegally back-dated the deed turning over Richard M. Nixon's pre-Presidential papers to the Government, was sentenced today to four months in prison and 20 months' probation.

In passing sentence, Judge George L. Hart Jr. of Federal District Court said Mr. Morgan, who is 36 years old, was a man "whose situation and circumstances cry out for mercy and decency."

But the judge added, "I also find a lawyer who willfully betrayed his trust to the law and the public," and said that "such an action cannot depart this court unflogged."

Judge Hart described Mr. Morgan as "a man who is universally admired and respected by his peers, a man of brilliant intellectual abilities and attainments." The judge added:

"I find a man whose career has effectively been destroyed by this one mistake and who will bear its mark for the rest of his life."

Mr. Morgan pleaded guilty on



Edward L. Morgan

Nov. 8 of attempting to obtain more Federal income tax deductions than were legally due President and Mrs. Nixon.

A legal information, or charge, to which Mr. Morgan pleaded guilty said he misrepresented the date Mr. Nixon's papers had been donated to the Government.

The purpose of the misrepresentation, according to the information, was to get around a new Federal law that drastically reduced tax deductions permitted for the donation of such papers.

Mr. Nixon claimed a deduction of \$95,298.45 for the papers on his 1969 tax return.

Mr. Morgan's attorney, Richard C. Van Dusen, said before

sentencing that it would be unfair for Mr. Morgan to go to prison for acts carried out on behalf of the former President.

Just before handing down his sentence, Judge Hart said, "I find a man who freely admits to making one terrible mistake in an effort to serve with misplaced loyalty a superior who held the highest office in the land."

Mr. Morgan could have received a maximum penalty of five years in jail or a fine of \$10,000, or both. He pleaded guilty of conspiring to "impede, defeat and obstruct the proper and lawful governmental functions of the Internal Revenue Service."

Judge Hart said he would allow Mr. Morgan to report voluntarily on Jan. 6 to the minimum security prison at Lompoc, Calif., to begin serving his four-month sentence. Mr. Morgan lives in Los Angeles.

As a deputy assistant to the President, Mr. Morgan was assigned in 1970 to help prepare Mr. Nixon's personal tax returns.

The new law covering charitable contributions of public papers carried a July 26, 1969, cut-off date.

While Mr. Nixon had not formally relinquished control of the papers, Mr. Morgan signed the papers included with the Nixons' tax return, which said the gift to the Government was made on March 27, 1969, in time for the Nixons to claim the large deduction.

Although named as part of a conspiracy, Mr. Morgan is the only one so far to face legal action in the case.