

# Appeals Period in Watergate Case

## Washington

It will probably be more than a year before any of the newly convicted Watergate coverup defendants spend a day in jail even if their planned legal appeals fail.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica postponed imposing any sentences pending a report from the Probation Office in the federal courthouse.

The report, likely to be a month in preparation, will include such items as character references and biographical material on the convicted men and trends of punishment for others convicted of similar crimes.

Meanwhile, each of the defendants has ten days to file formal notice of appeal. That deadline is postponed for defendants whose lawyers make requests to Sirica to set the verdict aside.

One defense lawyer predicted yesterday that all nine judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals will consider the coverup case at a full formal hearing. The lawyer estimated that a full year would pass before the last word was heard from the appeals court.

A Supreme Court appeal beyond that also seemed likely, according to defense lawyers.

*Associated Press*