

Sirica Cuts 4 Watergate Terms To the Periods Already Served

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WASHINGTON, July 11 (UPI)—United States District Judge John J. Sirica, following a pattern he has set for major Watergate figures, today reduced the sentences of four Cuban-Americans involved in bugging Democratic party headquarters.

The order will mean the most to Bernard L. Barker, a Watergate conspirator who had been faced with returning to prison for at least five more months.

The three others—Frank A. Sturgis, Eugenio R. Martinez and Virgilio R. Gonzalez—have been on parole for more than a year after serving their sentences and so Judge Sirica's order has the effect simply of erasing their probation.

The four men were arrested at Democratic National headquarters at the Watergate complex on June 17, 1972, and pleaded guilty the following January to charges of conspiracy, burglary, bugging and wire-tapping.

The fifth man arrested with them, James W. McCord Jr., then security chief for President Nixon's re-election campaign, was convicted and sentenced to prison but was released May 29 this year on Judge Sirica's order.

The other two men involved in the Watergate bugging—Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr.—are still in prison.

In the past several months, Judge Sirica has reduced sentences to time already served for several major Nixon Administration and campaign officials involved in the Watergate scandal, including John W. Dean 3d, Jeb Stuart Magruder and Herbert W. Kalmbach.

He issued today's order informally, standing in shirt-sleeves in his chambers, simply by handing a copy to the lawyer for the four men, Daniel E.

Mr. Barker, who pleaded guilty to seven counts, was sentenced Nov. 9, 1973, to a minimum of 18 months and a maximum of six years in prison. He had been free on bond since Jan. 4 last year pending appeal to withdraw his guilty plea.

When the Supreme Court recently refused to hear his case, Mr. Barker was faced with returning to prison.

The three other men were sentenced the same day to from one to four years and were paroled in the spring of last year.