

Ehrlichman Enters Prison Voluntarily

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 28—John D. Ehrlichman, one of the Nixon Administration's most powerful advisers, voluntarily entered a Federal prison camp today to serve sentences for his Watergate crimes, even though appeals in both cases are pending.

As matters now stand, Mr. Ehrlichman will serve a minimum of 30 months and no more than eight years as a result of convictions in the Plumbers case, in which he was sentenced to 20 months to five years, and in the Watergate cover-up case, in which he was sentenced to 30 months to eight years. Both sentences are to run concurrently.

Mr. Ehrlichman is continuing to press his appeals in both cases, one of his lawyers, Stuart Stiller, said here today. The former Nixon aide began his sentence at his own request, rather than wait, as he

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was entitled to, until the final outcome of one of the two cases.

Mr. Stiller would only say, "It's voluntary." Prison officials said that Mr. Ehrlichman signed a "blanket waiver" when he arrived, giving up a right to grant news interviews.

Mr. Ehrlichman arrived at the camp in Stafford, Arizona, about 10:30 A.M., accompanied by one of his daughters.

In the months following the Watergate coverup trial, Mr. Ehrlichman seemed to change, living in a small adobe house in Sante Fe, N.M., writing a novel and in the most visible change from his White House days, growing a thick dark beard. When he arrived at the camp, he was clean shaven, apparently aware that Federal prison regulations prohibit beards.

No Special Arrangement

Camp officials had known for weeks that Mr. Ehrlichman, when and if he entered prison, would be going to Stafford. Washington officials notified the prison that he would arrive by noon. John T. Hadden, the warden, said that no special arrangements had been made.

"We're going to make an effort to

treat him no better or no worse than anyone else," Mr. Hadden said by telephone.

Mr. Hadden noted that "in all reality, of course, it's not like any one else." But "we have to, and we will," treat him like others.

"The initial impression from the staff is, that's the way he wants it," Mr. Hadden added.

The camp is designed somewhat like a campus with dormitories rather than cellblocks. There are no bars and no walls or fences.

Minimum security camps are generally for short term. At Safford, Mr. Hadden said, the majority are Mexican nationals convicted of entering the country illegally or drug offenses.

A spokesman for the Bureau of Prisons

was asked why Mr. Ehrlichman was entitled to the relative leniency of a prison camp rather than a prison. He said that the former Nixon official had met the necessary qualifications—he was a "first offender," had not committed "crimes of violence" and was in no way a security risk.

The cap has a glove factory in which inmates may work. It is a popular assignment—all inmates most do some type of work—and there is a waiting list of about 500.

Assigned to a Dormitory

Safford also has a few separate rooms besides the 50-man dormitories, but there is a waiting list for them too. Mr. Hadden said that Mr. Ehrlichman had been assigned to a dormitory.

The United States Court of Appeals upheld Mr. Ehrlichman's conviction in the plumbers case last spring. Last month Mr. Ehrlichman asked the Supreme Court for a review. The trial judge in the case, Gerhard A. Gesell, had initially ordered Mr. Ehrlichman to surrender for his imprisonment in September, but because of his appeal he was allowed to remain free pending the Supreme Court's action.

Two weeks ago the appeals court also affirmed the coverup conviction. Mr. Ehrlichman has said he will appeal this as well.

The Supreme Court has refused to review several other criminal convictions in the Watergate scandal and is not expected to review the Ehrlichman case. Presumably, the Court's pattern was a

factor in Mr. Ehrlichman's decision to surrender today.

If the Court should agree to review the cases, he undoubtedly would be able to be released at least temporarily pending arguments in the case and the final decision. However, because he voluntarily gave up his right to remain free pending appeal, he would presumably not be able to assert that his imprisonment was improper.

Ex-Jersey Official Sentenced

PATERSON, N.J., Oct. 28 (UPI)—Joseph D'Arco, former Passaic County Freeholder, received a four-month jail sentence yesterday for bribery in connection with awarding county contracts. Mr. D'Arco, 61 years old, of Clifton, also was fined \$1,000 by Judge Bruno Leopizzi.