

Haldeman, Mitchell Delay Denied

Washington

The Supreme Court refused yesterday to delay the jail terms of H.R. Haldeman and John Mitchell while the former Nixon aides take back to the justices their hopes for freedom in the Watergate coverup.

The action cleared the way for Mitchell, Richard Nixon's attorney general, and Haldeman, the former President's White House chief of staff, to begin serving their prison terms. Each has been sentenced to 30 months to eight years.

Last week, the court turned down appeals for the coverup convictions of Mitchell, Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, another top Nixon aide. Ehrlichman voluntarily began serving his prison term last year.

Lawyers for Mitchell and Haldeman have said they will ask the court to reconsider its decision — something the justices almost never do. They asked the court last week to stay their client's jail sentences while the appeal of the appeal is being considered.

In a brief order yesterday, the court denied that request.

Judge John Sirica now must hold a hearing to decide when Mitchell and Haldeman will go to jail.

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