

Ehrlichman May Be Free in Two Weeks

Washington

John Ehrlichman yesterday was granted a reduction in his sentence for the Watergate plumbers break-in and could leave federal prison in two weeks.

Ehrlichman had been serving three concurrent terms of 20 months to five years for perjury and violating the civil rights of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell yesterday trimmed that to 42 months — making him eligible for parole October 28 after one year in jail.

Gesell's action came after Judge John Sirica on October 4 granted Ehrlichman a reduction to one to four years from his original Watergate coverup sentence of 30 months to eight years. Sirica had specified that Ehrlichman's sentence run concurrently with his term for the plumbers' conviction.

Ehrlichman, John Mitchell and

H. R. Haldeman — President Nixon's most trusted aides — received the same sentences for conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury in the coverup. Sirica reduced that to one to four years when they apologized and admitted guilt.

Haldeman and Mitchell will be eligible for parole June 20, 1978.

But because Ehrlichman voluntarily entered prison Oct. 28, 1976, at Safford, Ariz., while awaiting the outcome of various appeals, Gesell's decision means he could be freed in two weeks if the parole commission agrees.

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Prayer Day

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President Carter yesterday proclaimed December 15 "National Day of Prayer."

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