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Mitchell Out Of Hospital —New Hip

New York

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell left Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center yesterday with a new right hip.

He then began an unprecedented fifth consecutive prison furlough, approved personally by Attorney General Griffin Bell.

The Watergate burglary cover-up figure was said to be able to walk without pain, but will need crutches for about four weeks.

Mitchell, 64, was granted his first medical furlough from his one-to four-year prison sentence last December 28 after six months of imprisonment. He underwent surgery for an aneurysm on January 24.

He re-entered the hospital April 6 for total replacement of the hip joint after he was found to be suffering from osteoarthritis, a degenerative bone condition.

Mitchell was convicted of trying to cover up White House involvement in the Watergate burglary and of lying under oath about the coverup. His current furlough expires May 26. He will be eligible for parole June 20.

Associated Press