

Believed Unaware of Break-in

Nixon Knew of Spying: Magruder

NEEDHAM, Mass. Jan. 30 (UPI)—President Nixon was aware of White House political intelligence operations, but probably was not told about the Watergate break-in beforehand, convicted Watergate conspirator Jeb Stuart Magruder said today.

Magruder, recently freed from prison by U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica, said Nixon was probably not told about the break-in, which Magruder termed a minor operation.

I always thought the incident was of such minor consequence he may not have

known about it in advance," he said.

Magruder said, however, Nixon did know of (G. Gordon) Liddy's intelligence activities generally." Liddy supervised the Nixon re-election committee's intelligence operation.

Magruder, in a Boston television interview, said the former President encouraged such operations by his attitude. the Watergate break-in, he said, was inevitable under a man like Nixon. The atmosphere for a thing like Watergate emanated from the top.

"There was a tremendous

feeling at the White House that if you gathered enough information from your opponents, you would solidify yourself at the top," he said.

Magruder, a former White House and Committee for the Re-election of the President employee, said he has paid his debt to society and feels he should have the same right to speak in public that anyone else has. That statement was in response to a question about the cancellation of a Boston University speaking engagement for Nixon's former press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler.