

By Maxine Cheshire

Alfred C. Baldwin, the former FBI agent who participated in the Watergate bugging incident and was granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for his testimony before a federal grand jury, thinks his story could be dramatized for the movies or television.

Attorneys for Baldwin spent last week trying to put together a multi-million-dollar, multi-media package that would market his experience as a political undercoverman into a book, a magazine serialization, a Hollywood film and maybe a TV series.

Baldwin, who has been hiding out in Connecticut since his identity became known, hasn't been available to talk to reporters. His lawyers have indicated that exclusive rights to what he knows are open for bidding and will not be given in free interviews.

As bait for prospective buyers, the lawyers have reportedly been dang-

ling some intriguing tidbits. One publication was assured that Baldwin can name "more important" Republicans involved in the Watergate caper than any of those under indictment.

At least one television network and one national magazine have expressed interest. Book publishers are not so eager, probably because they would not have time to get into print before Baldwin is called to testify in open court.

No Four More Years

HEW Secretary Elliott Richardson hasn't announced his leaving and is ducking the question when reporters put it to him directly.

But he said at the Hope Ball here recently that he is rejecting the idea of "four more years" in the Nixon administration.

"I'm not sure I would have that much to contribute," he said, adding that it is his plan to remain until after

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VIP

Multimedia Watergate

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The Watergate Incident' Starring Alfred Baldwin

VIP, From LI

the election because it would be "good for continuity."

Gossip Quotient

Putnam's, the publishing company that paid Washington's Barbara Howar a reported \$35,000 advance for an insider's book that would tell all about such famous friends as foreign affairs adviser Henry Kissinger, has declined her manuscript on grounds that "it wasn't as saleable as we thought it would be."

What they meant was that it wasn't gossipy enough, a disclosure that will let a lot of VIPs breathe easier. The book, described as a "perceptive, touching, moving biography from childhood on" will now be published in the spring by Stein & Day. . .

Ice-Breaking Charms

Cathy Mellan Warner, wife of Navy Secretary John Warner, has already bought one of her husband's Christmas presents, a clenched Brazilian "figa" fist carved out of a raw emerald.

The charm, currently the status adornment among The Beautiful People, is a symbol of good luck and fertility made for such stores as Cartier's by Brazilian socialite Joan Guerreiro.

Cathy Warner swooped up \$2,500 worth of the trinkets at a department store counter here recently and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's wife, Joan, came along behind her and bought some more.

Joan Kennedy chose a voodoo horo-

scope sign for her own birthday and told a friend that she intends to wear it around her neck as a conversation piece to give tongue-tied strangers something ice-breaking to talk about.

Pot Pourri

Even before Jacqueline Onassis put artichokes in the center of her dining room table for that "House Beautiful" picture layout, the vegetable was considered the most chic you could serve. Five hundred of them are being flown from France this weekend for the RAP Ball here to benefit rehabilitated drug addicts. Artichokes aren't like green beans; they suffer from jet lag and must rest one full day. They will be cooked today and chilled 24 hours before being served as a first course with mustard sauce on Monday night. . . Sen. J. William Fulbright says that he had not lunched outside the Senate Dining Room "for 10 years" until columnist Tom Braden's wife, Joan, coaxed him down to the Sans Souci several months ago to talk about Vietnam with foreign affairs adviser Henry Kissinger. In gratitude for her having brought them together after years of political aloofness, the two men showed up to help celebrate Mrs. Braden's birthday at a surprise party this week. Commerce Secretary Peter Peterson, also among the guests, drew groans with a pun about the administration's controversial grain deal with the Russians. "The difficulty he said, "has been in separating the wheat from the chaff". . .