

Show and Tell

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By JOYCE ILLIG

EVER SINCE THE TELEVISED Watergate hearings, publishers and press have been speculating about who's going to publish the first how-it-happened memoirs of a Watergate conspirator. It now appears that Jeb Magruder and Atheneum will win the race.

Magruder's finished manuscript of over 400 pages was handed in to Atheneum last month. Pat Knopf, chairman of the board at Atheneum, said the working title is *An American Life: One Man's Road to Watergate*. It is tentatively scheduled for July 15 publication. There will be a first printing of 50,000 copies and paper has been ordered for another 50,000 copies. The book will be priced at \$10.

It will be the September selection of the Literary Guild (offered to members at \$6.95) and Marie Reno, the Guild's executive editor, described the book as "the first inside story of Watergate that we have seen that is exciting and human. It gives a real picture of what was going on at the White House."

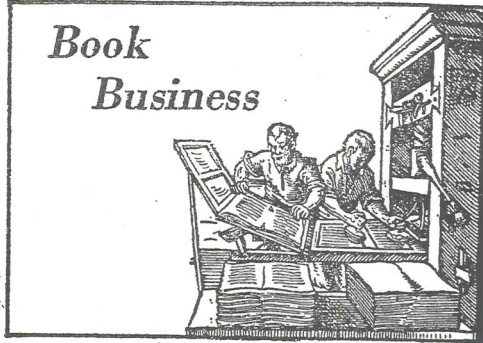
James McCord, Magruder, John Dean and Howard Hunt have all been previously reported as firm candidates for publishers, with Putnam confirming the planned publication of Hunt's autobiography (the manuscript is due in June). Most meetings have been cloaked with caution because Judge John Sirica has stated that Watergate defendants should not profit from their wrongdoing.

McCord suspended plans to publish his book with Exposition Press when Sirica ordered him off the lecture circuit. Since August, John Dean's lawyers have squelched talk of a book by Dean although for months Dean has had a California agent. More recently, Dean has had an on-now-off agreement for Farrar Straus & Giroux to publish the hardcover and Bantam to publish the paperback, with Bantam being the prime contractor.

According to an inside source who has been close to the project from the start, Atheneum signed a contract with Magruder last September for \$100,000. Political

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Book Business



writer and novelist Patrick Anderson was brought in as a ghostwriter when Magruder made it known that he wanted to write a book but needed someone to work with him. Anderson and Magruder, who met through a mutual friend, worked intensively to complete the book in five months. They got together at Magruder's home in Maryland or at Anderson's home in Virginia for long talk sessions.

The source said that when Magruder had the idea to write a book he was encouraged by William Sloan Coffin, one of his former teachers at Williams College. Magruder had mentioned Coffin in his Watergate testimony as an example of someone who broke the law during an anti-war demonstration, comparing this to his own violation of the law. Subsequently, Coffin turned interrogator in the October 1973 issue of Harper's when he and Studs Terkel interviewed Magruder.

There are said to be no dramatic new charges in the book, but it is said to give a revealing look at the Nixon administration, especially through vivid characterizations of Charles Colson, G. Gordon Liddy, John and Martha Mitchell and H.R. Haldeman. According to an early reader, anecdotes about Liddy suggest "a wild character" and Haldeman is portrayed as "a petty tyrant." Tales about the Mitchells are said to suggest that Magruder shows respect and affection for John but that he found Martha a nuisance.

Magruder is also said to give a good picture of the in-fighting in the administration between the moderates and hardliners as both sides tried to influence Nixon's policies. Colson is portrayed as the ultimate hardliner who gains great influence with Nixon. One source said Magruder describes how he discovered, at the outset of his career at the White House, that advancement there meant to take the hardline. He explains how and why he did it, drawing on his own personal encounters and using his papers and memos for documentation.

Magruder went to the White House in the fall of '69, first to work for H.R. Haldeman as a special assistant to the President. Then he became deputy director of communications to (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Herb Klein, and in the spring of '72, deputy director of CREEP (the Committee to Reelect the President.)

The first part of Magruder's book concentrates on his early life, then the personal story of the 39-year-old is nudged along with details of his corporate and political ambitions.

After Liddy enters the scene, they be-

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gin planning Watergate, and the burglars are eventually discovered, Magruder's is said to become the very dramatic personal story of a guy who sees the world collapsing around him. He seems to conclude that Nixon's thirst for political intelligence and his hatred of the press created this tragic atmosphere.

Anderson, who received a substantial sum of money for this assignment, will probably write a magazine piece about his experience working with Magruder, or bring it out in a future novel. The 37-year-old writer has also published *The President's Men*, a 1968 study of White House aides, and two novels, *The Approach to Kings* and *Actions and Passions*, recently published by Doubleday, which deals with a United States senator in the 1960s. □