

Nixon Campaign Aide

Denies Watergate Tie

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Herbert L. Porter, an official of President Nixon's re-election campaign, yesterday denied allegations he was connected with the Watergate bugging incident.

A federal judge granted permission Friday for the addition of Porter's name and that of Jeb Stuart Magruder as defendants in the \$3.2 million civil suit brought by the Democratic National Committee after the June 17 break-in and bugging of its offices in the Watergate building.

"I flatly and categorically deny that I was ever involved in any conspiracy in relation to the Watergate incident, or to any other alleged bugging attempts or incidents, and I

resent being named in this lawsuit," Porter said in a statement issued through the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Porter said he had testified to the FBI, a grand jury and in federal court "that I had absolutely no prior knowledge of the Watergate bugging incident."

"I have every confidence that, as the facts become known, my name will be stricken from the complaint," he said. Magruder has previously denied any involvement in the Watergate bugging.

In addition to the broadening of the suit to include Porter and Magruder, U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey also allowed the Democrats to reinstate five of the convicted Watergate defendants, including James W. McCord Jr.

The other four, all of Miami, also were defendants in the Watergate criminal case—Bernard L. Barker, Frank A. Sturgis, Virgilio R. Gonzalez and Eugenio R. Martinez.