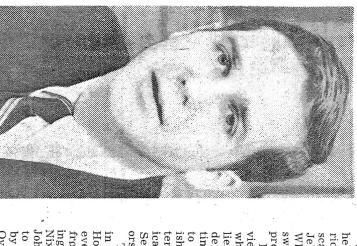
Magruder Testimony: 'No Trouble for His Bosses

WXPost Rowland Evans and Robert Novak



Jeb Stuart Magruder

scandal, former Nixon political aide Jeb Stuart Magruder will give the White House no trouble at all in his Contrary to widespread expectations here that he might implicate his superiors still deeper in the Watergate present plan. sworn public testimony, according to

Senate source told us, "that his superiors have nothing to worry about." views with federal investigators, in tends to blame himself for illegal politishly loyal Nixon lieutenant, now inwhich he has admitted perjury in earical espionage. "I would say," a high to one conclusion: Magruder, the slavdential preview of his forthcoming testimony to the Ervin committee point lier testimony, and his attorney's confi-Both Magruder's own private inter-

Nixon aides, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, have clearly decided ing for all spring. The two top former to rebut Dean at every point, backed even if he does not get the immunity House Counsel John Dean to tell all in light of the decision of ex-White by public pronouncements out of the from prosecution he has been bargain-This becomes particularly important

Oval Office. tends to follow buttresses the Nixon-Haldeman-Ehrlichman position and iso-The course that Magruder now in-

> are necessary, President Nixon's supin describing the 40-plus meetings he had with Mr. Nixon this year. porters hope to destroy his credibility nying Dean the documents he claims lates Dean. With the White House de-

Haldeman's interests against Mitchell, the future campaign director. Mitchell tried to undercut Magruder there, but Magruder was protected by Haldeman. tee for the Re-election of the President man's protege, placed at the Commit-House staff. But Magruder was Haldeas such a key actor in Mitchell's conof then Atty. Gen. John Mitchell and days. Dean was a White House agent blance to power alignments of happier (CRP) as acting director to safeguard tinuing power struggle with the White All this bears an uncanny resem-

onage instructions to Magruder but ratic behavior. predictability are clouded by recent erthough both Mitchell's credibility and from Mitchell on the witness stand, Dean is still hoping for corroboration adds that Haldeman probably did. told investigators that he gave no espilawyers close to the case, Mitchell has The pattern persists. According to

announced May 24 that a key figure in When U.S. Atty. Harold H. Titus Jr.

as Magruder - had agreed to plead ble for Magruder's bosses. The ingratiness, it was assumed that meant trouguilty and testify as a prosecution witating Magruder humbly told friends the Watergate case - later identified

by the White House. The blame, he is much from broad directions given him gruder is saying that he inferred too expected to testify, is his. government and Senate sources, Maplicating his superiors. According to But that obviously did not mean im-

new life.

take his punishment and then start a

that he was willing to tell the truth,

of the Nixon defense strategy. are simply denying everything and admitting nothing — not taking the fifth Dean have clearly become key points denials and the strategy to discredit privilege, not seeking immunity. Their amendment, not claiming executive for Ehrlichman and Haldeman, who That is obviously the best of news

Dean has told investigators that Mr. Nixon scribbled Watergate comments finding trouble getting the documents he contends will back up his charges Simultaneously, Dean is suddenly

> rebuffed. those records almost surely will be maries, but any effort to subpoena in the margins of his daily news sum-

Building. According to his account, access to his own files, stored in substantiate his testimony. own chronologies which he says could the basement of the Executive Office was denied access last Saturday to his Dean claims he cannot even get he

either Dean or Magruder, Ehrlichman other witnesses and documents. aides even without substantiation means his testimony may well severely and Haldeman are still likely to be indamage the President and his tors have so far proved quite accurate dicted, in the opinion of many lawyers. tion is shaky. Without testimony from The fact that Dean's leads to prosecu-Nevertheless, the White House posi-

view proves wholly false, it will be a day of testimony bringing some sighs of relief at the White House. yet to testify. Unless his lawyer's pre- as the highest level Nixon operative vin committee — probably next week Magruder's confrontation with the Against this background comes

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