

# A Nixon Election Aide Pleads Guilty

Washington

Herbert L. Porter, the former scheduling director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, pleaded guilty yesterday to a charge of lying to the FBI during its early inquiry into the Watergate affair.

Porter, 35, was asked by Judge William P. Bryant in U.S. District Court, "How do you wish to plead?"

"I plead guilty, your honor," Porter replied, standing next to his lawyer, Charles B. Murray.

Richard Ben-Veniste, the assistant special Watergate prosecutor in charge of a task force investigating the burglary of Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate complex on June 17, 1972, and subsequent cover-ups, told the court, "We believe he (Porter) has cooperated fully."

Bryant released him on his personal recognizance for the approximately one month it will take for a pre-sentencing investigation.

Porter, of Laguna Niguel (Orange county), joined the re-election committee in May, 1971, after a brief ser-

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vice in the White House under Herbert G. Klein, former director of communications.

He had sought immunity and had cooperated fully, he said, with the special Watergate prosecutor and with the Senate Watergate Committee. He was charged with lying to the FBI on July 19, 1972, in an arrangement worked out with Jeb Stuart Magruder, second in command at the re-election committee.

Federal law prohibits anyone from making a statement he knows is false in any matter "within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States government."

Porter freely admitted making the false statement when he testified before the Senate committee, and this admission brought his in-

dictment.

He told the committee that Magruder had asked him to think up a rationale for transferring about \$35,000 to G. Gordon Liddy, later convicted in the Watergate burglary. Porter said the idea was to have them both agree on a story that was "a little more legitimate sounding than dirty tricks."

Porter said he suggested they tell the FBI that the money had been spent on college-age students who supposedly were paid to infiltrate radical groups. Later, when Magruder told the story, Porter backed him up.

The charge is punishable



AP Wirephoto

**HERBERT PORTER**  
He lied to the FBI

by five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Magruder pleaded guilty August 16 to charges of conspiring to obstruct justice.  
*New York Times*