



Associated Press

Herbert L. Porter after he pleaded guilty yesterday.

PORTER IS GUILTY OF LYING TO F.B.I.

Ex-G.O.P. Aide Enters Plea on Watergate—Court Told He Is Aiding Inquiry

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 — Herbert L. Porter, the former scheduling director for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, pleaded guilty today to a charge of lying to the F.B.I. during its early investigation of the Watergate scandals.

Judge William P. Bryant of United States District Court released Mr. Porter, 35 years old, on his own recognizance pending a pre-sentencing investigation that will take about a month.

Richard Ben-Veniste, the assistant Special prosecutor in charge of a group investigating the burglary of Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate on June 17, 1972, and subsequent cover-ups, told the court, "We believe he has cooperated fully."

Did Not Ask Immunity

Mr. Porter, of Laguna Niguel, Calif., joined the re-election committee in May, 1971, after brief service in the White House under Herbert G. Klein, former director of communications.

Last June, Mr. Porter told the

Senate Watergate committee that he had not sought immunity and had cooperated fully with the Watergate special prosecutor and with the committee. He was charged with telling the Federal Bureau of Investigation a false story on July 19, 1972, in an arrangement worked out with Jeb Stuart Bagruder, second in command at the re-election committee.

Federal law prohibits anyone from making a statement he

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knows is false in any matter "within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States Government."

Mr. Porter freely admitted making the false statement when he testified before the Senate Committee. It was this admission that brought him to court. He had waived a formal indictment and pleaded guilty to a criminal information of This differs from perjury, which is lying under oath.

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

College Student Story

Mr. Porter said he had suggested saying that the money had been spent on college-age students who supposedly were paid to infiltrate radical groups.

Later, when Mr. Magruder told the story, Mr. Porter backed him up.

The charge is punishable by five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Mr. Magruder pleaded guilty Aug. 16 to charges of conspiring to obstruct justice. His sentencing has been deferred and he is cooperating with the special prosecutor's office.

Mr. Porter declined to discuss the Watergate case as he left the courtroom.

He passed Stephen B. Bull, a White House aide, in a corridor of the Federal Courthouse. Mr. Bull was on his way to appear before a grand jury that is investigating the 18½ minutes of buzzing on one of the key White House tape recordings.