

Richardson and Magruder Reported Writing Books

By ERIC PACE

Elliott L. Richardson has begun work on a book about the Watergate scandals and other national topics, and there were unconfirmed reports yesterday that Jeb Stuart Magruder had contracted to write an autobiographical book dealing largely with Watergate.

What disclosures former Attorney General Richardson may make about the scandals and what criticism he may make of the Nixon Administration were not immediately disclosed, but publishing sources said Mr. Richardson was still working on a detailed outline of the 90,000-word to 100,000-word book. The outline is to be submitted to publishers by the Julian Bach literary agency on Mr. Richardson's behalf.

Atheneum, a New York

publishing firm, was reported to have contracted for the book by Mr. Magruder, a former White House aide and Nixon's 1972 re-election effort. When asked about the report, Simon Michael Bessie, Atheneum's president, said, "There may be some truth to it, but it's a little too soon to say anything about it." He did not elaborate.

Resigned Last October

Mr. Richardson resigned as Attorney General last Oct. 20 rather than comply with President Nixon's order to dismiss Archibald Cox, then the special Watergate prosecutor. Since then, Mr. Richardson has been maintaining a private law office, working for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and lecturing around the country.

Mr. Magruder pleaded

guilty last Aug. 16 to charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice and to defraud the United States in the Watergate cover-up. His sentence has been deferred and he is cooperating with the prosecutors.

He has also been running a management consulting firm in Washington, but he had to give up plans to lecture for profit when Chief Judge John J. Sirica of Federal District Court in Washington said he wanted no one to profit from the Watergate scandals.

\$100,000 Advance Predicted

There was no indication of how much Atheneum might pay Mr. Magruder, but one enthusiastic admirer of Mr. Richardson said the book would bring a minimum advance guarantee of more than \$100,000.

The as yet untitled work by Mr. Richardson is expected to make a number of broad observations about political life in the United States. The author is also expected to argue that of what he describes as the natural discontent of the American people spring from a failure to adapt conceptions of the role of government to the changing times and he is expected to write a chapter or more about Watergate and its implications for the country.

The Bach agency, which represents Mr. Richardson, has already received inquiries from numerous publishing firms, it was understood. It plans to submit copies of the outline simultaneously to publishing houses and to choose the book's publisher on the basis of their bids.