



JEB STUART MAGRUDER
... pleaded guilty

Magruder Sentencing Set May 21

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Jeb Stuart Magruder, former deputy director of President Nixon's re-election campaign, will be sentenced this month for conspiring to obstruct justice in the Watergate scandal.

Magruder, 39, had originally been assured that his sentencing would be withheld until after completion of any criminal trials where his testimony was needed, but friends said that he decided "he'd like to get it over with."

As a result, U. S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica has quietly notified his lawyers the disposition will be made May 21 at 10 a.m.

The handsome ex-White House aide, who admitted perjuring himself several times in an effort to block the original Watergate investigation, faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Defendants in the forthcoming Watergate cover-up trial, where Magruder is scheduled to be a key witness, had protested against holding up such sentences until later on the grounds that the hope of leniency might affect testimony.

In a recent ruling, however, Sirica said it was not at all certain that either Magruder or former White House Counsel John W. Dean III or former Nixon campaign deputy Frederick LaRue would remain unsentenced until completion of the cover-up trial—which is now scheduled to begin in September.

One of the first to start talking to government prosecutors, Magruder pleaded guilty last Aug. 16 to helping plan the Watergate bugging of Democratic National Committee headquarters here and then conspiring to cover up high-level involvement in the espionage. He said he lied to the FBI, perjured himself twice before the Watergate grand jury in 1972, and gave false and misleading testimony at the original Watergate bugging trial.

A former paper salesman who first met Mr. Nixon in Kansas City in 1960, Magruder has been running a marketing consultant agency, Metropolitan Research Service, in recent months. Friends said he expects to go to prison and agonized over the choice of doing it sooner instead of later. His attorneys told Sirica recently that he preferred not to wait any longer.

Magruder's step could serve as a precedent for Dean and LaRue as well, but there was no indication that either of them has made a similar request. They also pleaded guilty to the cover-up conspiracy last year.