

# Magruder Says His Role In Cover-Up Drew Praise

Testifies That Dean Told Him Nixon Was  
Pleased by Silence on Watergate—  
Also Reports on Promises of Aid

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 30—Jeb Stuart Magruder testified at the Watergate cover-up trial today that he was informed in the summer of 1972 that President Richard M. Nixon was pleased with his efforts to keep the truth about Watergate from coming out.

Mr. Magruder said that he got that mesamessage from John W. Dean 3d, then the President's counsel. He said Mr. Dean accompanied it with another message: that if anything happened to Mr. Magruder—if he should be indicted, say—he would "of course be taken care of in the same manner" as the seven men involved in the Watergate break-in.

Mr. Magruder left it unclear whether the second message was attributed to Mr. Nixon as well.

Mr. Magruder was the deputy director of Mr. Nixon's re-election committee. Now, like Mr. Dean, he is a Federal prison inmate as a result of a guilty plea to conspiracy to obstruct justice in the Watergate matter.

He testified today for the second day, as the prosecution's third witness against the five former White House and Nixon campaign aides charged with conspiring to obstruct justice through such means as payments to keep those involved in Watergate silent about the truth.

Today, in addition to his statement about Mr. Nixon, he provided testimony damaging to four of the five defendants. Some of it repeated testimony he gave before the Senate Watergate committee, but substantial portions were apparently new.

He said, for instance, that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, 4 who had been director of the campaign, asked Mr. Magruder in the summer of 1972 to indicate to the grand jury "the limited role he played" and the major role played by Mr. Magruder, particularly in the area of finances and policy.

Mr. Magruder's role at the committee, as he described it today, was quite subordinate to that of Mr. Mitchell, who Mr. Magruder said, made the policy decisions.

Mr. Magruder also testified that on March 27, 1973, as the cover-up was coming apart, he went to Mr. Mitchell with a "laundry list" of the things he would need if he went to jail—money, clemency, help in finding a job later. There were about a dozen items in all, he said, written on a yellow legal pad.

Mr. Magruder said that Mr. Mitchell approved each item, and asked him to keep his silence about the truth of Watergate. "He asked me to continue to hold, not to break, in effect," the witness recounted, "and the conditions would

be met."

## Implicates Haldeman

In describing this list, Mr. Magruder went on to implicate another defendant, H. R. Haldeman, once Mr. Nixon's chief of staff at the White House.

Mr. Magruder said he and Mr. Mitchell discussed the "laundry list" with Mr. Haldeman a day later, on March 28.

"Mr. Haldeman said that he could not make any assurance as chief of staff at the White House," Mr. Magruder told the jury of nine women and three men considering the case.

"But as a friend," Mr. Hal-

man said, according to the witness, he "could" try to help on each of the items on the list, and "would."

Mr. Magruder had testified at the Senate Watergate hearings about some offers of assistance. He said, for example, that in the summer of 1972 he had been given a "assurances about income and being taken care of" and that there would be a "good opportunity for executive clemency." He did not specify who made the offers.

He did say at the hearings that Mr. Mitchell had told him on March 27 that he, Mr. Mitchell, would take care of everything. He did not, however, describe the sequence he described today.

Mr. Magruder, 39 years old, healthy-looking despite his incarceration on a 10-month to four-year sentence, gave no testimony directly implicating the third of the well-known defendants in the case, John D. Ehrlichman, once Mr. Nixon's chief domestic adviser.



Associated Press

Jeb Stuart Magruder preparing to leave by car from the basement garage of the courthouse in Washington yesterday after testifying on Watergate cover-up.

## Two Others Named

But he gave a great deal of damaging testimony about the two lesser-known defendants in the case, Robert C. Mardian, a former Assistant Attorney General who was a political coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and Kenneth Wells Parkinson, a Washington lawyer who was hired by the committee after the Watergate break-in on June 17, 1972, to handle some of the legal problems arising from the committee.

Mr. Magruder, testifying in a firm, confident voice, often leaning forward with an earnest expression on his face, linked Mr. Mardian to the earliest stages of the cover-up.

Much of his testimony about Mr. Mardian, potentially very damaging, repeated his earlier testimony. He said that Mr. Mardian and Mr. Mitchell had discussed with Mr. Magruder the perjury that Mr. Magruder and another campaign official, Herbert L. Porter, were to commit.

Regarding Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Magruder seemed to be providing substantial new evidence. He said, for instance, that Mr. Parkinson had had Mr. Magruder and Mr. Porter prepare false statements with the intention of giving them to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

At one point in his testimony about Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Magruder appeared to be changing his position somewhat, at least from that stated in his book, "An American Life."

Mr. Magruder, responding to questions by Jill Wine Volner, a prosecutor, testified that he gave Mr. Parkinson a full account of the facts about Watergate, after being told by Mr. Mardian that Mr. Mitchell wanted him to do so. Later, he



said, Mr. Mitchell asked him about this and commented. "Just don't tell the truth any more to anyone who is not on the team working on the problem."

In his book, Mr. Magruder recorded Mr. Mitchell's alleged comments thus: "No, we shouldn't discuss it with the lawyers. We have to protect the lawyers."

Mr. Magruder's book also refers to Mr. Nixon's alleged pleasure with his efforts to keep the facts about Watergate hidden.

The book quotes Mr. Dean as saying, "Jeb, the President is very pleased with the way you've handled things. You can be sure that if you're indicted you'll be taken care of."

The passage does not suggest, however, that Mr. Nixon knew what Mr. Magruder had been doing. Today, Mr. Magruder appeared to suggest that Mr. Nixon was aware.

As he described it today, Mr. Dean—why by his account was quite aware of what Mr. Magruder was doing—came to him and said "how pleased he was with the efforts I was making to keep the truth of Watergate from coming out."

Mr. Dean, according to Mr. Magruder, went on to say how pleased everyone at the White House and the campaign committee was. And then, he said, he mentioned Mr. Nixon in particular.

#### Credibility Factor

For all the damaging testimony that Mr. Magruder gave today, there is the factor that he is a confessed felony just like the two prosecution witnesses before him, Mr. Dean and E. Howard Hunt, one of the original Watergate burglars.

Mr. Magruder may, in fact, appear to the jury to be in an even more questionable position than the other witnesses, for he has admitted to perjury.

Plato Cacheris, one of the lawyers for Mr. Mitchell, emphasized that point when he began cross-examining Mr. Magruder this afternoon. Over and over, he asked Mr. Magruder about the times he had lied. Each time, he asked Mr. Magruder whether he had taken an oath—the same oath he took

before the jury here—before giving his perjured testimony. Each time Mr. Magruder replied that he had.

Among the instances of perjury Mr. Magruder admitted to was his testimony at the first Watergate trial—held before Judge John J. Sirica, who is presiding at this trial, too. Other occasions included Mr. Magruder's various appearances before the grand jury in 1972.

In his cross examination, Mr. Cacheris elicited from Mr. Magruder at least one statement that was somewhat contradictory of one of his earlier statements. It concerned Mr. Mitchell's reaction to one of the intelligence plans presented to him in February, 1972.

Mr. Magruder testified at one point that Mr. Mitchell had been more negative about this proposal than about an earlier one; today he testified that Mr. Mitchell had been less negative.

#### Nixon's Criticisms

The jury also heard some unflattering things about Mr. Magruder before he took the stand—including the remark by Mr. Nixon on a White House tape recording that if Mr. Magruder "goes down, he will pull everybody with him."

In other developments at the trial today, James F. Neal, the prosecutor in the case, said that he planned to present to the jury a videotape of Mr. Halderman's testimony at the Senate hearings.

One of the counts against Mr. Halderman involves whether he testified truthfully before the Senate committee, and the exact wording of the testimony is in dispute between the prosecution and defense.

Mr. Neal also said that because lawyers for Mr. Ehrlichman and Mr. Mitchell had stipulated as to certain facts contained in some of the counts against them involving allegedly false testimony—the stipulations going to such things as the date of testimony, rather than the truth—the prosecution would need to put on few witnesses.

So, he told Judge Sirica, the trial would probably be finished by Christmas. But, he added that the conclusion of the trial would probably depend on the "other matter we all know is hanging fire."

Apparently, it was a reference to the health of Former President Nixon, who has been subpoenaed as a witness.