

Magruder Says Nixon Didn't Know Bug Plan

Former Nixon re-election campaign official Jeb Stuart Magruder, released by order of U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica Wednesday after serving seven months for his role in the Watergate cover-up, said yesterday he still believes former President Nixon did not know in advance of the political wiretapping project of which the Watergate break-in was a part.

Magruder said on CBS "Face the Nation" (WTOP) that the \$250,000 budget for the political surveillance effort under G. Gordon Liddy was a minor element in a \$6 million re-election budget and the project probably was not brought to Nixon's attention until after the break-in. Also, he said, so much wiretapping was going on within the Nixon administration that this project probably didn't seem particularly noteworthy.

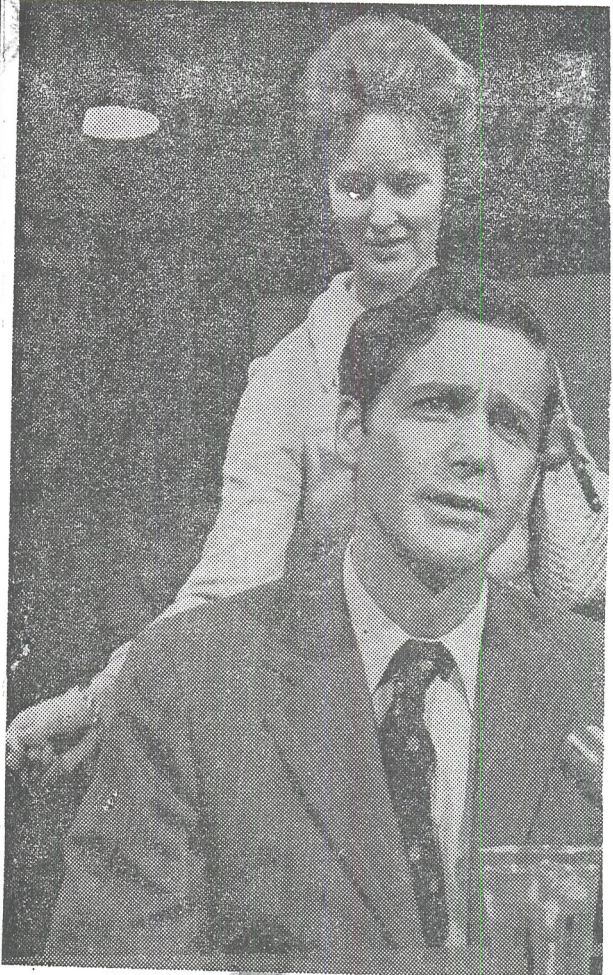
Magruder said one of the reasons the Watergate case was pursued so vigorously was because "our relationship with

the press was not a strong one, so when Watergate broke we had no credits to rely on to help us." The same was true about the administration's relations with Congress, he said. In the press' dealings with earlier administrations, he said, "there may not have been quite the incentive to do so much digging."

Tanker, Freighter Collide Off Japan

TOKYO, Jan. 12 (AP)—An oil tanker and a freighter collided off southern Japan in a storm today, but then continued on their way, the Maritime Safety Agency said. No loss of oil was reported.

The agency said two of the 18 crewmen aboard the 10,000-ton Liberian tanker Florence were slightly injured when the vessel collided with the 1,526-ton Greek freighter Minimabor.



Associated Press
Jeb Magruder, with his wife Gail, prepares to go on TV.