

Mitchell approved front money

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jeb Stuart Magruder testified Thursday that although John N. Mitchell gave his unenthusiastic approval for the Watergate burglary he asked a week

F Post 11/1/74
later why so much money was required by the man who was planning it. Testifying at the Watergate cover-up trial for the third day, Magruder said he got a telephone call from the former

attorney general in the first week of April 1972 asking why G. Gordon Liddy needed "this much money."

Magruder said that he went to Mitchell's office and reviewed for him the \$250,000 proposal that he said Mitchell approved on March 30 and explained that what Liddy was asking "was in effect front money" to purchase equipment and hire men.

"Mr. Mitchell understood," Magruder said, and later authorized Hugh Sloan, the treasurer of Richard M. Nixon's reelection committee, to give Liddy what he asked.

Magruder had testified earlier that the approval for the Liddy plan was given at a meeting in Key Biscayne, Fla., on March 30.

There has been previous testimony in other forums that Liddy originally asked for \$82,000.

The former president has been subpoenaed by Ehrlichman, and his current critical illness has cast doubts on whether he will recover in time to appear when it is the defense's turn some five to six weeks from now.

"It would be our position that if Mr. Nixon could not appear, Mr. Ehrlichman would not be able to get a fair trial," said a source close to the defense.

The various speculations were heightened by closed door meetings, first among defense lawyers, then among all lawyers and U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, that delayed the day's session for nearly an hour.