

Watergate Film Deal?

By Maxine Cheshire

WASHINGTON — Alfred C. Baldwin, the former FBI agent who participated in the Watergate bugging and was granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for his testimony before a Federal Grand Jury, apparently expects to see his story dramatized on movie and television screens with Rock Hudson in the leading role.

Attorneys for Baldwin have been trying to negotiate a multimillion dollar "checkbook journalism" package for books, magazines, movie and television rights to his story.

Baldwin, who has been hiding out in Connecticut since his identity has become known, will not talk to reporters whose publications are not interested in paying for the privilege.

As bait, his lawyers have been dangling some intriguing tidbits. One magazine was assured that Baldwin can name "more important" Republicans involved in the Watergate caper than those under indictment.

At least one network and one leading magazine have expressed interest. Book publishers are not so eager because they would have difficulty getting into print before Baldwin is required to get on the witness stand and answer questions in open court.

HEW Secretary Elliott Richardson hasn't an-

nounced his leaving and is ducking the question when reporters put it to him directly.

But he said at the Hope Ball here that he is rejecting the idea of "four more years" in the Nixon administration.

"I'm not sure I would have that much to contrib-



Rock Hudson

ute," he said, adding that it is his plan to remain until after the election because it would be "good for continuity."

Putnam's, the publishing company which paid Washington's Barbara Howar a reported \$35,000 advance for an insider's book that would tell all about such famous friends as Foreign Affairs Advisor

Henry Kissinger, has declined her manuscript on grounds that "it wasn't as saleable as we thought it would be."

What they meant was that it wasn't gossipy enough, a disclosure that will let a lot of VIPs breathe easier. The book, described as a "perceptive, touching, moving biography from childhood on" will now be published in the spring by Stein and Day.

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Connie Mellon Brown, wife of National Gallery of Art Director J. Carter Brown, has already bought one of her husband's Christmas presents, a clenched Brazilian "figa" fist carved out of raw emerald.

The charm, currently the status adornment among The Beautiful People, is a symbol of good luck and fertility made for such stores as Cartier's by Brazilian socialite Joan Guerreiro.

Connie Brown scooped up \$2500 of the trinkets at a department store counter here recently and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's wife, Joan, bought some more.

She chose a voodoo horoscope sign for her own birthday and told the clerk that she intends to wear it around her neck as a conversation piece to give tongue-tied strangers something ice-breaking to talk about.