

MAGRUDER HEARD BY GRAND JURORS

Balks at a Pretrial Hearing
in Democrats' Civil Suit

By JAMES T. WOOTEN

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WASHINGTON, May 1—Jeb S. Magruder's lawyer said today that his client, a former White House aide and Nixon official, had appeared before a Federal grand jury investigating the Watergate scandal.

James Bierbower, who has represented Mr. Magruder for the last month, disclosed his client's appearance before the grand jury to lawyers representing the Democratic National Committee in three civil suits arising from the burglary and electronic surveillance at the party's Watergate headquarters last June.

Mr. Bierbower also told the Democrats' lawyers that he expected the grand jury to hand up indictments and therefore declined to allow Mr. Magruder to answer any of their questions other than his name and address at a pretrial deposition session.

Imminent Moves Doubted

Meanwhile, there were several indications today that indictments from the grand jury are not imminent.

Seymour Glanzer, an assistant United States Attorney, said, "We're not going to be stampeded into doing anything rash."

Herbert W. Kalmbach, the President's personal lawyer, was in the Federal Building today. It is not known whether he appeared before the grand jury.

Earl Silbert, Assistant United States Attorney, said: "A very important person was here today." But he declined to identify the person and to specify the individual had appeared before the grand jury or was simply questioned by Federal prosecutors.

Asked if H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman would appear before the grand jury this week, Mr. Glanzer said: "We're going to try to live up to their expectations."

White House Aide

In their letters of resignation yesterday, Mr. Ehrlichman and Mr. Haldeman, former aides to President Nixon, said they planned to meet with Federal prosecutors this week.

Mr. Magruder, the 38-year-old former deputy director of White House communications and deputy director of the Nixon campaign last year, came with Mr. Bierbower to the offices of Sheldon S. Cohen, the general counsel for the Democratic National Committee, to answer questions concerning his role in the Watergate burglary.

The Democrats' lawyers had just finished taking a deposition from James W. McCord Jr., one of seven men convicted in the Watergate burglary. Mr. McCord had spent yesterday and today at Mr. Cohen's office answering questions about his role.

After Mr. Magruder had given

the lawyers his name and address, Mr. Bierbower interrupted and said that his client had already testified before the grand jury, that there would be indictments in the case and Mr. Magruder would therefore not answer any further questions.

In a civil suit, attorneys cannot compel pretrial depositions without court orders. Maurice Dunie, a lawyer for the Democrats, said today that a motion would be filed before United States District Judge Charles R. Richey seeking an order that would compel Mr. Magruder to complete his deposition.

Mr. Magruder has reportedly told Federal prosecutors that the Watergate burglary and a larger political espionage plan were discussed and devised at meetings attended by former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.