

Magruder Is Back on Job At Nixon Inaugural Group

Returns to Payroll Amid Reports He Will Testify Against President's Aides— Panel's Chairman Defends Move

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WASHINGTON, May 25 — Jeb Stuart Magruder went back on the payroll of the Nixon Inaugural Committee this week at the same time that he was reported preparing to plead guilty and bear witness against other Nixon aides in the Watergate case.

J. Willard Marriott, the hotel executive who is chairman of the private inaugural group and controls leftover funds, said that Mr. Magruder's job of "analyzing reports and making recommendations for the next inaugural" would take a month or so.

He did not disclose Mr. Magruder's salary, and he did not comment on the political paradox that Mr. Magruder was being sustained by one part of the Nixon circle while he got ready to attack another.

In an interview with The Washington Post yesterday, Mr. Marriott said of Mr. Magruder, a 38-year-old father of four who has been out of work for about a month:

"He's got a right to earn a living, to feed his family. He hasn't been convicted of anything yet. He has no income and can't live on nothing. He's down and out, and he's got a right to work. It's none of the newspaper's business."

Joined Administration in '69

Mr. Magruder had marketing companies of his own in California before he joined the Nixon Administration in 1969. A protégé of H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, Mr. Magruder was a deputy manager of the 1972 Nixon campaign, then director of the inaugural celebration and briefly an official of the Commerce Department before he admitted his involvement in the Watergate affair and left the Government last April 26.

At the Watergate trial last January, Mr. Magruder testified under oath that he had had no connection with the bugging raid on the Democratic headquarters last summer. In recent weeks, however, he is understood to have told prosecutors that he and other Nixon aides had been in on the planning of the burglary.

Mr. Magruder's lawyer, James Bierbower, sought this afternoon to minimize the significance of the new job with the inaugural committee. He said that Mr. Marriott was only giving Mr. Magruder "a break." "It isn't a great thing, and it's going to be over fairly soon," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bierbower said, Mr. Magruder has organized a new marketing consultancy, called Metropolitan Research Services, and has three clients already. The unnamed clients are "legitimate business concerns," Mr. Bierbower said, "not of the General Motors variety, but people who are smart enough to hire talent."

Talmadge Asks Haste

WASHINGTON, May 25 (UPI) — Senator Herman E. Talmadge said today that the Senate Watergate committee should hasten the appearance of key witnesses to determine quickly if President Nixon was involved in the bugging of Democratic National Headquarters.

The Georgia Democrat, a member of the select committee, said in a telephone interview from Atlanta that the question of Mr. Nixon's involvement "must be resolved."

"I think it's important that we get the principals in the matter before our committee at the earliest possible date and remove the cloud of uncertainty that hangs over the country," Mr. Talmadge said.