

6/6/73
NYT



The New York Times

Works harder and tries harder
(Mr. Reisner at the Watergate hearing yesterday)

Watergate Witness

Robert Alan Fernon Reisner

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 5—"I imagine what happened was that Fred Malek called Bob one day and told him that if he was interested in doing something different for awhile to see this guy Jeb Magruder."

That was the way a former boss speculated that Robert Allan Fernon Reisner was put in touch with Jeb. Stuart Magruder, former deputy director of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, in November, 1971, by Frederic V. Malek, then Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. "This was a case of a bright young guy who took the job as an interesting aside," the former boss continued. "He probably saw it as a year and a half adding to his knowledge of the public sector."

Mr. Reisner, who testified today in the Senate Watergate investigation, was described by another former superior as "working harder and trying harder" than a dozen other Harvard Business School students in a 1970 Department of Health, Education and Welfare panel setting up the Environmental Protection Agency.

"In a town where people play games angling for their next job, Bob concentrated on his present job. I never got the impression he was out for his own ends," the former boss said.

Mr. Reisner (pronounced Reesner) was born in Washington but grew up in Philadelphia. He attended Germantown Friends School, where he was a quarterback on the football team. He switched to lacrosse when he entered Yale University in the fall of 1964.

"He made up what he lacked in ability by plenty of desire," a Yale roommate said of his lacrosse play.

After graduating from Yale in 1968, Mr. Reisner was awarded a Corning Fellowship, which enabled him to travel for a year in Asia, parts of Africa and Latin America.

"He decided the best thing to do then was to get out in the real world," a friend recalled today. "He also felt it would increase his chances of getting into Harvard."

He was married in June, 1969, and entered Harvard that fall. After receiving his master's degree in 1971, he worked for the Environmental Protection Agency for a short time until he joined the President's re-election committee. He is now a management associate at the Office of Management and Budget.

The baby-faced, 26-year-old, Mr. Reisner, was described by friends as being consistently "Clean cut and meticulously dressed." He was wearing a conservative, dark, pin-striped suit as he calmly answered the questions of Senators today. "I doubt if he owns a double knit sport coat," one friend joked.

A former co-worker said it was "a logical move" for him to go to work for the President's re-election campaign. "But he couldn't have known what was going on," another friend said. "He has an awful lot of integrity."

Reached after his testimony today, Mr. Reisner described the Senators' questioning as "very fair." He refused to comment on the outcome of the hearings. "We'll just have to see what happens," he said.