

# Ex-Campaign Aide Admits Perjury

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## Washington

A former official of President Nixon's re-election campaign committee admitted yesterday that he had committed perjury in his grand jury and trial testimony in the Watergate bugging case.

In dramatic testimony at Senate Watergate hearings, Herbert L. Porter said his perjury was encouraged by Jeb Stuart Magruder, his superior at Nixon campaign headquarters.

Porter, of Laguna Niguel, Calif., said he agreed to lie about payments he made to convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy, out of loyalty to the President and a desire to remain "a team player."

## EVIDENCE

Porter's testimony was the first direct evidence that last January's Watergate trial, which resulted in the conviction of two defendants and five others pleading guilty, was tainted by perjury.

In late March, James W. McCord Jr., who was convicted along with Liddy, wrote Federal Judge John J. Sirica that perjury occurred at the trial and that some defendants had been pressured to plead guilty.

McCord later told the Senate Watergate committee that Magruder had committed perjury.

Magruder, it has been learned, conceded as much to federal prosecutors in a closed-door session on April 14 and is to so testify, openly, before senators next week. It was not previously known that Porter had lied at the trial.

These developments raised the prospect that Liddy's and McCord's convictions might be overturned. In addition, Porter has opened himself to prosecution because he was not protected by a grant of immunity in making his Senate admissions yesterday.

## ACCUSE

As the Senate committee ended its third week of nationally televised hearings (they resume Tuesday) on the scandal, Porter followed former campaign treasurer

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Hugh W. Sloan Jr. in accusing Magruder, the deputy campaign director, of exerting pressure on them to commit perjury or keep silent.

Porter, the re-election committee's scheduling director in charge of campaign activity by administration officials, entertainers and other celebrities in Mr. Nixon's behalf, said Magruder suggested that he deliberately conceal the use of \$100,000 in campaign funds that went to Liddy.

Porter quoted Magruder as saying:

"Gordon was authorized money for some dirty tricks — nothing illegal but nonetheless things that could be very embarrassing to the President of the United States, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Haldeman and others."

## STORY

Porter said he asked what Magruder had in mind, and quoted Magruder as asking: "would you corroborate a story that the money was authorized for something a little more legitimate-sounding than dirty tricks: Even though the dirty tricks were legal, it still would be embarrassing."

Porter said he himself suggested—and Magruder quickly agreed—that the two could say the \$100,000 in cash Porter had dispensed to Liddy and others was paid to ten college-age youths, at the rate of \$1000 a month apiece for ten months, to conduct political intelligence work.

This false statement, said Porter, by agreement of the two men was subsequently given by them to the Water-

gate grand jury last summer and in their individual testimony at January's trial.

Its significance was that it pictured Liddy, McCord and the other defendants as men acting on their own initiative without campaign committee approval.

But Porter said he refused to perjure himself a second time by telling prosecutors and the Watergate trial jury he had given Liddy \$75,000 when the real amount was \$30,000 to \$35,000.

"I didn't give him that amount of money and I won't say I did," Porter said he told Magruder.

#### SLOAN

Earlier in the day, Sloan testified he told H. R. Haldeman in January of pressures on him to lie about Watergate. Haldeman's reply, he

said, was that "there were mistakes made in the early period" after the June 17 break-in.

April 30, the same day Haldeman resigned at Mr. Nixon's request, the President told the nation it was not until late March that he learned that charges of White House involvement and attempts at a coverup might be true.

Sloan testified Wednesday he quit as campaign committee treasurer on July 14, nearly a month after the break-in, in frustration and disillusionment after trying to warn his superiors of the wrongdoing he had seen.

#### MEETING

He was unemployed for five months until early January, when he rejoined the campaign finance staff as a consultant to help "wrap things up," he testified, and he requested the meeting with Haldeman later that month.

#### REFUSAL

At the White House meeting, Sloan said, he told Haldeman of the pressures to perjure himself or invoke the Fifth Amendment and of his refusal to do either.

Haldeman, he said, replied that "there were mistakes made in the early period" following the June 17



AP Wirephoto

HERBERT PORTER AT THE HEARING  
He said he had lied to grand jury and at trial

break-in and arrests at the Watergate.

Sloan said he told Haldeman he sensed he "had been blacklisted, essentially," since he had quit the campaign. Haldeman, he said, told him there were no "so-called Watergate figures" getting government jobs.

But Sloan said he learned a few days later that Magruder had landed a job as assistant commerce secretary. "At that point, I just threw up my hands," he said. "There certainly was no attempt at that point to take these people out of the picture."