

'A Weakness in My Character'

Washington

Herbert L. Porter said yesterday a weakness in his character drew him into the cover up of the Watergate affair.

Having determined that fact in his own mind, Porter said he wanted no immunity from prosecution for his testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee. The young ex-scheduling director at the Committee for the Re-election of the President said he wanted only to tell the truth, perhaps to "atone" for what he had done.

Porter said earlier he succumbed to pressure from deputy campaign director Jeb Stuart Magruder to lie about the purpose for which money he had given G. Gordon Liddy would be used.

Porter said his reasons for lying went beyond the normal reasons that people do such things. Obviously after having thought deeply on the subject, Porter said:

"I did not do it for money, I did not take a bribe, I didn't do it for power, I didn't do it for position, I didn't do it to hide anything that I had done because I didn't think I had done anything. And yet, on the other hand, there were three or four factors that probably weighed, and I can't put any percentages on which

weighed more or which toppled me over to the other side.

"My vanity was appealed to when I was told my name had been brought up in high councils and that I was an honest man and made a good appearance and that sort of thing. My loyalty was appealed to, to the President.

"It was the heat of the campaign, a campaign I am sure every one of you senators know is an abnormal situation. You react, act and react and you spend most of your time reacting.

"And . . . I think all of those things coupled with what I have found out to be a weakness in my character, quite frankly, to succumb to that pressure, all added up to my tipping over to that side.

"Having discovered that weakness . . . the first thing I told my attorney, I said I want to go down and I want to tell the truth and I don't want to hide behind a darn thing. And I have not tried to make any deals with anybody.

"Senator Baker used the word atonement the other day, and perhaps that is what I'm doing, I don't know. I'll let others judge that. But that's the way I feel and that's what I'm doing."

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