

Magruder Was 'Corrupted,' Teacher Says

New Haven, Conn.

Jeb Stuart Magruder was told as a college student that he was a nice guy "but not a good man." Fifteen years later, a former teacher describes him as a man who has fallen victim to the corruption of power.

Yale University Chaplain William Sloan Coffin Jr. had Magruder, a key figure in the Watergate bugging scandal, in an ethics class at Williams college during the 1958-59 academic year.

"He got corrupted by power," Coffin said in an interview yesterday. "I think that a young guy is very vulnerable to the corruptions of power and his ambitions."

MOVEMENT

Magruder, testifying Thursday before the Senate Watergate committee, cited Coffin's civil disobedience in the anti-war movement as a justification for his own violations.

But Coffin said there was a world of difference between what Magruder was

doing and his own actions in protesting the war policies of the Johnson and Nixon administrations.

"In everything that I did, it never infringed on the civil liberties of anybody else," Coffin said. "It was open and above board and we were willing to take the consequences."

"What he did was underground, invaded other people's privacy and he wasn't willing to take any consequences until he had been uncovered."

Coffin and four other men, including Dr. Benjamin Spock, were arrested in January, 1968, and charged with conspiring to urge young men to evade the draft.

COURT

A year and a half later, Coffin, Spock and two other defendants were freed by a U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston.

Coffin said his protests were in opposition to the illegal use of power.

"What he (Magruder) did, he did to secure that pow-

er," he said.

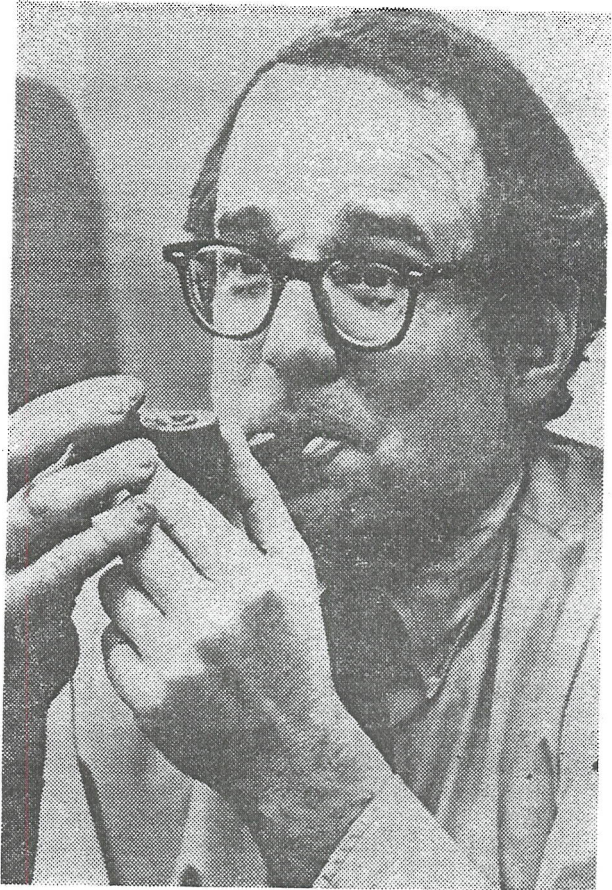
"There is a big difference between civil disobedience taken in the name of conscience which is not interfering with the private lives of anybody else and this type of criminal activity which is a distinct invasion of other people's privacy simply in

order to secure the power of the President."

Magruder said that everybody was breaking the law so that he could do it as well, Coffin said.

"Well, Jesus and Jimmy Hoffa have that in common, too," Coffin said.

United Press



CHAPLAIN WILLIAM COFFIN
Magruder was in his ethics class