



JEB STUART MAGRUDER
... after testimony

Magruder Guilty Plea Is Expected

By Donald P. Baker
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A second Nixon campaign aide reportedly will plead guilty this week to a charge of conspiracy to obstruct justice in the Watergate scandal.

A spokesman for Chief Judge John J. Sirica said the Watergate prosecutor's office has asked for time Thursday to permit Jeb Stuart Magruder, former deputy campaign manager of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, to plead guilty to "an information," a legal maneuver that eliminates the need for an indictment.

But Magruder's attorney, James J. Bierbower, said last night that "Magruder will not be there" Thursday. Bierbower declined to explain if that meant the report was wrong, however.

On June 27, Frederick C. LaRue, a former White House aide who was the top aide to John N. Mitchell when Mitchell was campaign manager, was permitted to plead guilty to a single conspiracy count in return for a promise of full cooperation with the Watergate special prosecution force.

Magruder reportedly also
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has been cooperating with the prosecutors.

Judge Sirica is not likely to sentence Magruder immediately. When LaRue plead guilty to an information, the judge said he would postpone sentencing until after the trials of persons implicated by LaRue's statements.

An information may be entered by a defendant who waives his own right to a grand jury indictment and trial. It amounts to a legal, public confession.

Howard Hunt Jr. for his expected appearance before the new grand jury.

In a brief court action, Sirica signed a motion presented by William H. Merrill, a Cox assistant, that extended the immunity, originally granted March 28 for Hunt's testimony before the first Watergate grand jury.

Hunt was represented in court yesterday by attorneys Robert M. Scott and Sidney S. Sachs.

Magruder, in testimony before the Senate Watergate committee, said former Attorney General Mitchell approved the plans of

The charge to which LaRue pleaded—and to which Magruder is reported ready to plead—carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$10,000, or both.

The second, special Watergate grand jury, empaneled by Judge Sirica on Monday, began its first full day of inquiry yesterday morning by hearing from former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst. Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox was personally on hand for Kleindienst's appearance.

Kleindienst is a key figure

in the ITT aspect of the new panel's investigation. It was during his time as assistant attorney general at the Justice Department that the huge international conglomerate reportedly offered to underwrite \$400,000 of the cost of the 1972 GOP convention, then scheduled at San Diego. (The offer later was withdrawn). The offer followed a compromise settlement of antitrust action against ITT that was considered favorable to ITT.

In another development, Judge Sirica extended the immunity from prosecution to Watergate conspirator E.

G. Gordon Liddy, a campaign aide, to bug the Democratic National Committee's headquarters. The approval, Magruder said, came during a meeting on March 30 in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Magruder testified that after he, LaRue and Mitchell listened to a scaled-down version of Liddy's original plan, "I think I can honestly say that no one was particularly overwhelmed with the project, but I think we felt the information could be useful and Mr. Mitchell agreed to approve the project." (Mitchell's version of that same meeting is that

Mitchell said "we don't need this (Liddy's plan). I am tired of hearing it out. Let's not discuss it any further."

Also implicated by Magruder's testimony is Gordon Strachan, who was assistant to H. R. (Bob) Halde- man, the White House chief of staff.

Magruder testified that Strachan, who was the liaison between the re-election committee and the White House, was kept informed of the planning for the bugging operation and was shown the first results of the wiretaps at the Democratic headquarters. Magru-

der said he assumed that Strachan passed the information on to Haldeman.

Strachan in his testimony before the Senate committee denied that he was briefed on the bugging plan or that he was shown the "fruits" of the wiretaps.

The former White House aide testified that Magruder told him after the March 30, 1972, meeting that a "sophisticated political intelligence-gathering" plan had been approved with a budget of \$300,000. Strachan said Magruder gave him no details on the plan.

At his appearance before

the committee, Magruder admitted that he had perjured himself in two of his three appearances before the Watergate grand jury, and during the trial of Liddy and the six other men indicted in the June 17, 1972, burglary and bugging at the Watergate.

He also told the Senate investigators that "as far as I know, at no time during this entire period, from the time of the planning of the Watergate to the time of trying to keep it from public view, did the President have any knowledge of our errors in this matter."