

MAGRUDER ENTERS A PLEA OF GUILTY

He Faces 5-Year Term and
Fine in Watergate Case

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 — Jeb Stuart Magruder, the former deputy director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, pleaded guilty today to a one-count indictment charging conspiracy to obstruct justice, defraud the United States and eavesdrop on the Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate.

Looking calm and tanned after a vacation with his family in Europe, Magruder listened attentively as Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court advised him that he could be jailed for five years and fined \$10,000 for activities in the Watergate scandal.

Magruder is the second person in the Watergate case to plead guilty as part of a deal with the special Watergate prosecutors. The other was Frederic C. LaRue, the special assistant to John N. Mitchell at the re-election committee, who pleaded guilty on June 27.

Both agreed to cooperate fully with the prosecuting team, to make a full confession and to testify against others in the case. In return the Government lawyers will ask the court for lenient sentences.

Sentencing of the two have pleaded guilty was postponed by Judge Sirica until after the prosecuting team produces indictments, so that he can evaluate how cooperative they have been with the Government attorneys. Five other persons have already pleaded guilty at the trial for participation in the Watergate break-in.

Jury Trial Waived

After Magruder signed a document waiving his rights to a jury trial, the judge followed the usual procedure of asking a series of questions to make sure the defendant understood the consequences of pleading guilty.

Bowing to speak into the low microphone on the podium before the judge, Magruder replied, "Yes, your honor" to questions of whether his plea was voluntary, and "No, your honor" to whether he had been coerced into giving any testimony.

At the conclusion of the legal proceedings, Magruder had admitted his role, with other unnamed co-conspirators, in the following charges:

¶Plotting the break-in of the Democratic headquarters.

¶Purchasing equipment and hiring people for the break-in.

¶Eavesdropping on the Democratic National Committee.

¶Impeding the Justice Department investigation by concealing the scope of the unlawful activities, influencing witnesses to give false testimony, concealing evidence and giving misleading testimony.

¶Conspiring to misrepresent the Central Intelligence Agency as having an interest in limiting the investigation.

¶Giving false testimony to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

¶Secretly raising funds for the original Watergate conspirators to buy their silence.

When Magruder testified before the Senate Watergate committee, he implicated dozens of persons in the plot, giving dates and details of key events. He is the only former Nixon aide to testify directly that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell approved the bugging and break-in plot.

Despite the long list of charges, Magruder, like LaRue, is pleading guilty to only a one-count indictment, in comparison to multiple-count indictments expected for other Watergate figures.

Magruder was freed on his own recognizance by the judge. This allows the 38-year-old management consultant to travel around the country for Metropolitan Research Service.

Outside the courthouse, Magruder was asked by newsmen if he had thought about spending time in prison.

"I will accept the sentence," he said, adding that he would like to give some lectures to tell people that "these types of things have no place in American politics."