

Ex-Aide To Nixon Is Charged

By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former White House and Nixon campaign official Herbert L. (Bart) Porter was charged yesterday by the Watergate special prosecutor's office with lying to FBI agents who were investigating the Watergate break-in.

Porter, who now works for his father-in-law's construction firm in California, said yesterday before the presentation of a one-count information to U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. Sirica that he planned to enter a plea of guilty.

However, U.S. District Court Judge William B. Bryant, to whom Sirica assigned the case, was ill and the expected plea is tentatively scheduled for next Monday.

Porter, 35, admitted in testimony before the Senate Watergate committee last June that he had lied before the Watergate grand jury and at the original Watergate trial, as well as to FBI agents who interviewed him. On the charge filed yesterday, Porter could be jailed for up to five years or fined \$10,000, or both.

He said in his Senate testimony that deputy Nixon campaign manager Jeb Stuart Magruder had asked him to lie in order to corroborate a false story Magruder himself had testified to concerning campaign money paid to Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy.

Magruder since has pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and is free on bond.

The story that had been con-
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cocted, and to which Porter agreed, was that Liddy was allocated \$100,000 to gather intelligence legally on possible violence against "surrogate" candidates who were speaking for Mr. Nixon in the primaries.

In fact, Liddy received more than \$100,000, and part of it was used to finance the Watergate bugging, according to other testimony.

During his Senate testimony, Porter told how he wore his first Nixon campaign button during a Nixon congressional race in 1946 and how he felt "a deep sense of loyalty" to the President.

Yesterday, before his court appearance, Porter said he was disappointed with the President's handling of the Watergate case.

"I'm not disloyal to him. I'm disappointed not so much in what he's done or hasn't done — the jury's still out on that — but I'm disappointed in the advice he is taking," Porter said.

"They say one thing one day, another thing another day—it has been mishandled up and down the line," Porter told reporters.

He added, however, that he thought Mr. Nixon had done "fantastic things for this country," running down a list of the President's accomplishments in foreign affairs.

Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste presented the one-count information to Sirica at a brief court session, during which Porter and his attorney signed a waiver of his right to have the charge presented to a grand jury.

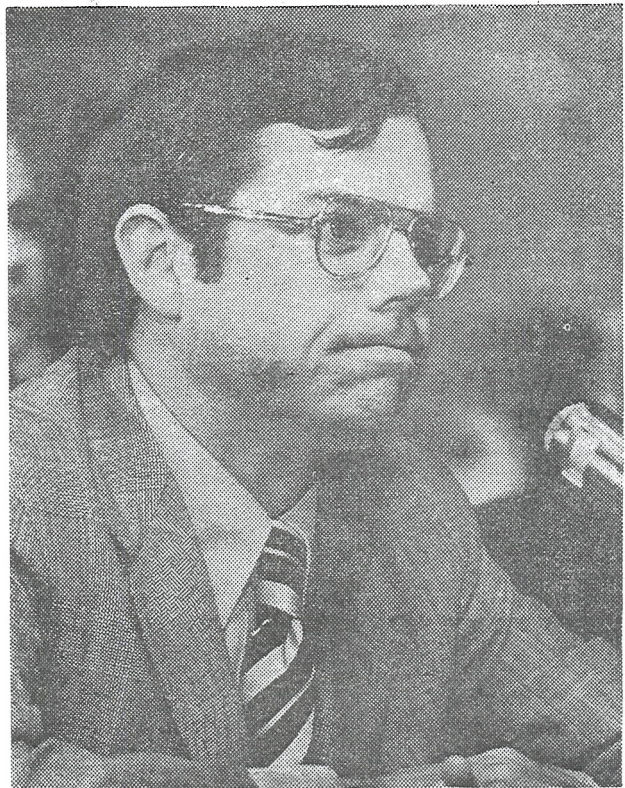
Porter did not speak during the session, and after it was discovered that Bryant was ill, Porter's attorneys advised him not to discuss the planned disposition of the case.

The information charges that on July 19, 1972, a month after the Watergate break-in, Porter "did knowingly and willfully make false, fictitious and fraudulent statements and representations to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation . . . which was then investigating a matter within its jurisdiction."

That statement was made at the behest of Magruder, Porter had told the Senate committee.

According to sources famil-

iar with Porter's discussions with the Watergate special prosecutor's office, Porter specifically had resisted a plea to a perjury charge before agreeing to plead to the false-statement charge. Both charges carry the same penalty.



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Herbert Porter: "I'm not disloyal" to President Nixon.