

# Magruder's New Story

## Washington

Convicted Watergate conspirator Jeb Stuart Magruder says he suspects President Nixon demanded and received the full story of the Watergate break - in immediately after it occurred and then kept "in close personal touch" with the coverup.

Magruder, deputy director of Mr. Nixon's re election campaign, who was sen-

tenced to a minimum of ten months' imprisonment Tuesday for his role in planning and concealing the break in, says he based his suspicion on "my knowledge of how the White House operated."

He makes the comments in his soon-to-be published book, "An American Life: One Man's Road to Watergate."

Before joining the Com-

of the President, Magruder served as a special assistant to Mr. Nixon and deputy director for communications in the executive branch from October, 1969, to May, 1971.

Gerald L. Warren, deputy White House press secretary, said yesterday in response to Magruder's statement that Mr. Nixon has repeatedly said he first learned of the coverup on March 21, 1973 nine months after the break in at Democratic headquarters at the Watergate.

Magruder writes that former N. Mitchell and ex-White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman possibly kept the truth about the operation from Mr. Nixon, "either to shield him from involvement or out of fear of his wrath."

He adds, however, "I think it much more likely that he would demand the truth and they would provide it."

Magruder's statements go well beyond his Senate Watergate committee testimony

last June 14 when he said he had "no knowledge of any input from the President" on the coverup.

Magruder also expands in the book on Haldeman's alleged early knowledge of the coverup, which Haldeman has denied.

He tells of a January, 1973, meeting with Haldeman where Magruder says he told him of the planning of the break-in, the coverup and the perjury to keep it concealed.

Frank Strickler, Halderday that Haldeman's White House appointment logs show he held no meeting with Xagruder in January, 1973, and that in a subsequent, tape-recorded telephone conversation with a Haldeman aide, Lawrence Higby, Magruder denied he could implicate Haldeman.

Magruder's book covers his pre-Watergate experiences in the administration as well. Some of the scathing comments he makes about aides close to Mr. Nixon perhaps explain why the White House comment on

the day of his sentencing was so icy.

Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler, Magruder says, was "stubborn, unpleasant, barely competent and power hungry."

Magruder described Charles W. Colson, the former special counsel to the President who is a defendant in both the Watergate coverup and "plumbers" cases, as "an evil genius. His brilliance was undeniable, but it too often applied to encouraging Nixon's darker side, his desire to lash out at his enemies, his intent for the jugular."

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