

Magruder's Day of Glory

Hundreds Get His Autograph

Washington

Jeb S. MaGruder put aside his Watergate prison worries for a few hours yesterday and lived the celebrity life, signing copies of his new inside-Watergate book for hundreds of autograph-seekers and swapping light-hearted chat with them.

"I'll be doing something else besides being an author," MaGruder said as he autographed a man's copy of "An American Life—One Man's Road to Watergate" at a book fair in the Sheraton-Park Hotel.

"What's that, sir?"

"I'll be going to prison in two days."

MaGruder, 39, will begin a ten-month-to-four year term in Allenwood, Pa., federal penitentiary tomorrow.

He pleaded guilty to one charge of obstructing justice in the Watergate cover up conspiracy and contributed much of the testimony that helped prosecutors unravel that case.

The \$10 hard-cover book, according to its flyleaf, "nar-



AP Wirephoto

Magruder beamed at some of the many visitors who lined up at his stand

rates the gripping, sometimes tragic story of his rise and fall" as a bright young Nixon administration official ensnared in Watergate.

But yesterday was his day for limelight. Hundreds of visitors to the American Booksellers' Association convention lined at MaGruder's counter for a free paper back copy of his book, an

autograph and a few words of chatter with President Nixon's former White House aide and deputy campaign chief.

The line to MaGruder kept a 150-foot hotel corridor constantly filled for more than an hour, and a book fair official said he was drawing more attention than seven or eight other authors on hand

combined.

Finally, a man handed over his copy of the book for an autograph and told MaGruder he was from Pennsylvania.

"Well," MaGruder said with a smile, "I'm going to be spending quite a bit of time in that area."

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