

Magruder Favors Nixon Pardon

Washington

Jeb Stuart Magruder, who was released from prison Wednesday after serving seven months of a sentence for the Watergate conspiracy, said yesterday he approves of President Ford's decision to grant Richard M. Nixon a full pardon.

"I felt the penalties the former President had paid . . . were sufficient and that to have him go through the **judicial process** would have been very, very difficult. I think his illness would indicate that it would have been an extremely traumatic experience for him," Magruder said.

Magruder was interviewed on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation."

He said the two basic rea-

sons the Watergate coverup unraveled were Judge John J. Sirica's persistence and a feeling among the conspirators that the coverup was "wrong from the beginning."

The former deputy director of Mr. Nixon's re-election committee, also said competition for power within the White House fostered the Watergate scandal to begin with.

Magruder said that Mr. Nixon probably was aware of the June 17, 1972, Watergate break-in and the role of the re-election committee almost immediately.

"The day after the break-in it became a major subject of discussion," Magruder said.

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