

# Ford 'Wouldn't Buy the Book' by Any Convicted Watergate Figure

President Ford said Thursday night the he "wouldn't buy the book" of any Watergate person-ally convicted of crime.

The President also said that he was not bothered by talk that he is intellectually incapable of serving in the White House. His grades in high school, the University of Michigan and Yale Law School, he said, always placed him at least in the top third of his class, so "there must be an awful lot of people much dumber than I."

Mr. Ford made his comments during a television interview on NBC, in which he was questioned by two network correspondents, John Chancellor and Tom Brokaw.

A question posed by Mr. Chancellor cited reports that former Vice President Spiro T.

Agnew—who had no Watergate connection but pleaded no contest to a charge of tax evasion—was becoming a millionaire through business ventures, that Richard M. Nixon was in California, and that "some of these other people who were involved [in Watergate] were getting book advances."

The President replied that he was sure that citizens who had "worked hard all their lives, have made middle-income wages or salaries, lived an honest, decent life, raised a family and find that for various economic reasons they're in trouble" would certainly be disturbed.

"I wouldn't buy the book," the President added.

Earlier this week Simon & Schuster said that John W. Dean 3d, former counsel to

President Nixon, freed on Jan. 8 after four months in prison for obstruction of justice in the Watergate case, would receive \$300,000 for a book about his experiences. Maureen Dean, his wife, is also preparing a book.

Another Watergate defendant freed at the same time as Mr. Dean, Jeb Stuart Magruder, completed a book, titled "An American Life: One Man's Road to Watergate," last June, just before he began a prison term.

It was reported last summer that other book projects had been proposed to publishers on behalf of four others convicted of Watergate crimes, H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, Charles W. Colson and Donald Segretti. But there have been

no announcements that such projects are under way. E. Howard Hunt Jr. has written his autobiography and still another Watergate convict, James W. McCord Jr., published his own book, "A Piece of Tape."

Mr. Ford said that although he had never expected his rapid rise from House Republican leader to the White House, "I feel very secure in the capability that I have to do the job."

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"My feeling of security, my feeling of certainty grows every day," he said.

In other areas, the President said that "under no circumstances" should the Federal Bureau of Investigation spy on

members of the Congress or on United States citizens.

He also said that it would be premature for him to judge the charges of domestic spying by the Central Intelligence Agency. "Mistakes were made, going back to 1964 or 1965; it has stopped now," he said.

As for his future plans, Mr. Ford said that he still expected to run for a full term in 1976, but he conceded that if inflation remained above 10 percent and unemployment above 7 per cent a year from now, "those are pretty tough odds, and anybody has to be realistic."

He added, however, "I don't think that's going to happen."

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