

Magruder's Story of Nixon's Plan

New York

Jeb Stuart Magruder, jailed for his part in the Watergate scandal, was quoted yesterday as saying former President Nixon had planned to establish a perpetual presidency.

Magruder reportedly said Nixon "was so convinced that his kind of administration was better for the country than anything the Democrats could offer that he wanted to be able to pick his successors."

The New York City daily newspaper The Trib published in today's edition what it described as excerpts from Magruder's forthcoming book, "From Power to Peace."

The Trib quoted Magruder as saying Nixon planned to establish a "perpetual presidency" by being able to pick the next GOP presidential candidate and destroy any Democratic opponents.

"That meant two things: a Republican candidate had to be able to win elections — we had just proved that could be done; and he had to be able to destroy any opposition candidates — we were well on our way to doing that," the Trib account said.

The Magruder book, according

to the Trib, also said Nixon was overjoyed when he heard of Edward M. Kennedy's 1969 Chappaquiddick car crash in which an ex-secretary of the senator's slain brother Robert died.

"Dissatisfied with the data from routine investigations of that unhappy event, he sent (Watergate figure) E. Howard Hunt to Chappaquiddick to dig up whatever he could," Magruder was quoted as saying.

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