

Carl Bernstein Will Resign From Post to Write Books

12-9-76
By Robert G. Kaiser
Washington Post Staff Writer

Carl Bernstein, who with Bob Woodward wrote the stories on Watergate that won a Pulitzer Prize for The Washington Post in 1973, is resigning from the newspaper effective Jan. 1.

Bernstein plans to write books he said yesterday. "It's very hard to leave The Post," he said, "but I've worked for newspapers since I was 16 years old—half my life—and I want to try other kinds of journalism."

Benjamin C. Bradlee, executive editor of The Post, said in a statement:

"There is no way of ending a relationship like the one that Carl Bernstein and The Washington Post have enjoyed during the last four years.

"That was some ride, and no one, even remotely involved in it will ever be quite the same.

"Carl's decision to resign, to strike out on his own and write books, is one that all of us must respect, however sad it makes us to see him go. His contribution, along with Bob Woodward's, has been much more than a contribution to this newspaper and to each of us who stand a little taller because of them. It has been a contribution to journalism and to the country.

"We shall miss him greatly, and he leaves with our respect and our very best wishes."

Bernstein has been at The Post since 1968. Before Watergate made him famous, he covered the old Court of General Sessions, the District government, Virginia politics and life in and around Washington. He began his career as an investigative reporter in 1967, when he coauthored a series of articles on Sidney J. Brown, a local real estate operator and then-owner of dilapidated apartment houses.

Before joining The Post, Bernstein worked as a copy boy and reporter on The Washington Star, and as a reporter for the Elizabeth (N.J.) Journal.

His and Woodward's coverage of Watergate has become probably the most renowned example of investigative journalism in the history of the United States. Their two books on Watergate—"All The President's Men" and "The Final Days"—have sold millions of copies, and the movie of the first has been seen by millions.

The Bernstein-Woodward saga has had repercussions throughout the newspaper industry, and in journalism schools as well. Applications to journalism schools rose dramatically after their coverage of Watergate began to get national attention. Editors have repeatedly commented on the eagerness with which reporters have pursued investigative assignments since Bernstein and Woodward won their fame.

Woodward last night said of Bernstein's resignation:

"My association with Carl Bernstein has been the most rewarding professional experience of my life. Watergate is over, and I know we both look forward to doing independent work. This is what Carl wants to do. He goes with my deep respect and with my friendship."

Woodward will stay at The Post as an investigative reporter on the national staff.

Bernstein said his first book project will be an account of Washington and Washingtonians during the McCarthy era.