



Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, instrumental in exposing the Watergate scandal, are publishing a book, "The Final Days."

On the end of Nixon's Presidency. A film based on their first book, "All the President's Men," is showing across the U.S.

Hollywood Plays

Woodward and Bernstein

by Robert Walters

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Only a few years ago Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein were, in the words of one friend, "two kid reporters who ate in hamburger joints."

They still haven't lost their taste for hamburgers, but today Woodward and Bernstein can afford to eat in the finest restaurants — and they're treated like celebrities.

The two Washington Post newsmen, whose revelations played a major role in forcing the resignation of President

Richard M. Nixon, have become the nation's best-known team of journalists—and among the richest.

This spring the fame and fortune they've acquired in the past three years will grow considerably with the almost simultaneous release of a new book—for which they received a \$300,000 advance—and a major motion picture.

The film is based on their first book, published two years ago, and carries the same title, *All the President's Men*. With Robert Redford playing Woodward and Dustin Hoffman playing Bernstein, it is the chronicle of how the two reporters were instrumental in bringing the Watergate scandal to public attention.

No fictional heroes

"The feel of the movie is nice," said Bernstein, a graying 32-year-old bachelor. "It's understated; it's not about Batman and Robin."

On May 5, while the movie is being shown across the nation, the reporters' second book, *The Final Days*—the saga of Nixon's last months in office—is scheduled to be published.

For both reporters, those events represent a dramatic change from the early 1970's. In those pre-Watergate days, Woodward was an intense, self-assured and determined young man just out of the Navy who had landed a job as an apprentice newsmen at a weekly paper in the Washington suburbs.

Bernstein was an equally junior member of The Post staff who claimed to be so impoverished that he regularly burned cigarettes from his colleagues.

Underlining how far all of that has been left behind, Richard E. Snyder, president of the New York publishing house of Simon & Schuster, says the first edition of *The Final Days* will total 200,000 copies—"the biggest initial printing in our history."

Big plans

Warner Brothers has equally grandiose plans for the movie, which is described as the story of "two young men who precipitated the greatest constitutional crisis since the Civil War."

Its world premiere, at the Kennedy Center in Washington earlier this month, attracted many of the nation's best-known journalists and benefited the Fund for Investigative Journalism. Another highly publicized opening was held the following evening in New York for Concern, an environmental group headed by Redford's wife Lola.

Woodward and Bernstein remain basically unaffected by money and success. "Most people are not really equipped to handle instant wealth or instant fame. Bob and Carl have coped with it better than most," said Snyder.

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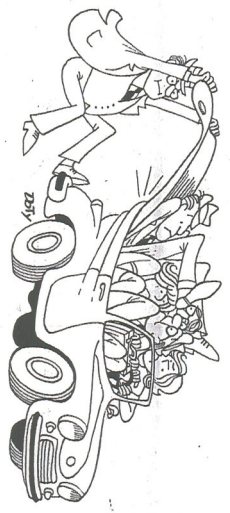
Robert Redford (l), Jack Warden (standing), Dustin Hoffman (r) and Jason Roberts confer on Watergate in a

scene from the movie version of the Woodward and Bernstein best seller that turned them into celebrities.

America, the vulnerable. If every American family were suddenly required to spend \$400 overseas, people would blow their stacks. Yet, that's just about what happened in 1974 when America's bill for foreign oil abruptly jumped to \$26 billion from \$9½ billion the previous year. That tab will rise to \$35 billion by the end of next year, which means that every family will be sending a gift package of over \$500 to foreign oil producing countries, according to Federal Energy Administration data.

Are you concerned about it? You should be. And you should tell your elected officials. They're still holding up measures to step up the search for more oil and gas in this country, and to mine more of America's abundant coal—steps America must take now to control that costly foreign oil habit.

Tight squeeze. "How can you fit five people into a compact car," asked a commuter from Warren, Ohio, after "Observations" noted that a 5-rider car pool sharing a compact each day could save \$902 yearly on a 10-mile commute. "If I sit up, I bump my head. If I slouch, my knees and legs are stiff when I get out," she wrote. "Who are those midgets you used for your survey?" We used government statistics, but your comment raises a valid question posed in a later column: that unrealistic mileage mandates could limit production of big cars some American families need.



What price energy? A new law requires the manufacturer to tell how much electricity each appliance consumes. If enough people become energy conscious in buying appliances, says the Federal Energy Administration, the nation's savings could increase in a decade to the equivalent of 350,000 barrels of oil a day. Which appliances use the most electricity? Based on average U.S. residential rates, here's what a typical family of five pays annually: hot water heater, \$127; frostless 14-cubic-foot refrigerator, \$55; frostless freezer, \$53; range with oven, \$36; clothes dryer, \$30; color TV (tube type), \$20; electric blanket, \$4; radio, \$3; shaver, \$2.

Upcoming on T.V. A young girl's loss of childhood innocence mirrors the end of an epoch when "Sunset Song," a new six-part Masterpiece Theatre drama, begins next Sunday night on public television. It's the evocative story of a sensitive Scottish country lass, with thunderclouds of World War I brooding overhead. We think you'll like it.



Observations, Box A, Mobil Oil Corporation, 150 East 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10017



Bernstein and his friend, writer Nora Ephron, at her New York City apartment. Bernstein says he and Woodward will probably work together on more projects.

WATERGATE CONTINUED

For example, the paperback rights to their first book were sold for \$1 million, but half went to Simon & Schuster. Of the remaining \$500,000, 10 percent went to Obs, their literary agent.

The contract called for payments to the writers over five years, producing \$90,000 a year, or \$45,000 each—\$20,000 after federal and local taxes.

The new book focuses on the 16-month period during which Nixon was under intensive fire—from April, 1973, when his most trusted aides were forced to resign, through August, 1974, when he resigned under threat of impeachment.

"How he was able to stay in office during that time is an incredible story," said Bernstein, a Washington native who attended the University of Maryland but never graduated because his interest in journalism overwhelmed his desire to attend classes.

Most previously published material has focused on an earlier period of Nixon's Presidency, Woodward noted, with little attention given to the last year's battle for political survival.

2200 files

In doing research for *The Final Days*, Woodward and Bernstein identified 22 "areas of inquiry," such as the Nixon family, the White House staff, the President's lawyers, members of the Cabinet, and Nixon's friends. For each category, they assigned a file folder covering every one of the last 100 days Nixon was in office—a total of 2200 files.

To fill those folders, Woodward and Bernstein spent months interviewing and re-interviewing sources on a not-for-attribution, "deep background" basis. By the time that process was concluded, they had talked with 394 men and women, many of them a dozen times or more.

"We were able to produce an hour-by-hour, almost minute-by-minute chronology—especially during the last

two weeks of Nixon's tenure," Bernstein said. "It's really a book about the decision-making process—what happened in meetings, conversations and so forth," Woodward added.

According to those who read the book prior to publication, it combines the research techniques used by historians with the journalistic approach that enabled Woodward and Bernstein to win a Pulitzer Prize for *The Post*.

Major project

The final product is a book that runs about 175,000 words, took more than a year to research and write, and produced its share of friction between the happy-go-lucky Bernstein and the serious-mannered Woodward.

"The tensions are always high, we always fight," said Bernstein.

"We try not to do it around my wife or Carl's girlfriend," said Woodward. "There was a bad period towards the end of 1974 and the beginning of 1975. I think that's when we hit our lowest ebb in terms of getting along. Now, I would say, we get along better than ever. We still fight, but the fights have become less bitter."

"Our relationship works," Woodward went on, "and it works because we disagree on so many things that we consider two different points of view, then resolve them."

Will they remain together as a team or go their separate ways? Both reporters profess to be uncertain about the future. "We're not stuck together. When we want to work together on things, we'll do so. When we want to do something separately, we'll do that," said Bernstein.

"Our only mistake in the future would be to try to program ourselves or to live in the shadows of our past successes. There's a high probability we'll continue to work together on some things, but for now we're playing it by ear."

Crispina found a friend

One who is helping her survive



Woodward with wife Francie Barnard. He and Bernstein want to keep working as reporters, reject many offers for speeches.

WATERGATE CONTINUED

Richard M. Cohen, a fellow reporter at The Post and personal friend of Woodward and Bernstein, offered this view: "Nobody can go from obscurity to celebrity status without being affected. It has brought changes in both of them, but that change really has been minimal."

And David Obst, literary agent for the two reporters, recalled an incident that typified their newfound popularity: "One day we were all on the movie set in California. Two really pretty girls came by, and I thought they'd naturally approach Redford. Instead, they walked up to Bob and one asked, 'Are you the real Bob Woodward?'"

Both young men have resisted the temptation to become celebrities first and journalists second. "The place for a reporter is working as a reporter," said Woodward. He and Bernstein have turned down hundreds of requests to make speeches, even though they could command several thousand dollars for each appearance.

Bernstein said, 'Come back'

"I learned my lesson on the day of the Saturday Night Massacre—Oct. 20, 1973 [when Nixon fired Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus, and Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned]," said Woodward. "I was in Madison, Wis., giving a speech to 1100 ladies at a civics club. Carl called me from the office the night before and said come on back, something is happening. I didn't come back, and he was absolutely right."

Bernstein had a similar anecdote. Following publication of *All the President's Men*, Simon & Schuster asked the two reporters to make an eight-week, cross-country tour to promote the book. "We did two weeks of it, then told them that was enough because we had work to do," Bernstein said. "If we had followed the original schedules, we would have been in Kansas City for a television interview on the day Nixon resigned."

In recent months, the two have been deluged with requests for magazine, newspaper and broadcast interviews. "Our first interest is in doing our work," said Bernstein. "When it's possible to accommodate somebody who seems to have a serious purpose in mind, we'll do it. But you can't spend all your life giving interviews."

Money is a sensitive issue for both young men. "We're not millionaires," said Woodward, a 33-year-old native of Wheaton, Ill., and a Yale graduate who majored in history and English literature.

Both have moved into better quarters in Washington, but there are no signs of ostentatious spending. "They haven't bought any fancy cars, saunas or kidney-shaped pools," said Cohen. Bernstein bought a bicycle after proceeds of the first book began rolling in—and he now buys his own cigarettes.

The money linked to book contracts, movie deals, paperback rights and other spinoffs from their work often has run into the millions of dollars, but the two reporters' share usually is far less than the publicized amounts.

continued

Crispina Aguilar's case is typical.

Her father works long hours as a sharecropper despite a chronic pulmonary condition that saps his strength. Her mother takes in washing whenever she can. Until recently, the total income of this family of six was about \$13.00 a month. Small wonder that they were forced to subsist on a diet of unpolished rice, swamp cabbage, and tiny fish the children seine from a nearby river.

Now Crispina enjoys the support of a Foster Parent in Tennessee whose contribution of sixteen dollars a month assures Crispina and her entire family of better food and health care. And, when Crispina is old enough, the help of her Foster Parent will give her a chance for an education, an opportunity to realize whatever potential she has to offer to this world.

How can such a small monthly contribution do so much in the life of Crispina's family? In the underdeveloped countries where Foster Parents Plan is at work, the need is so great, the pov-

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