

POLITICAL MUD THROUGH THE AGES

Since the onslaught of Watergate, the air has been full of cries that such political dirty work is as American as the electoral college, and Victor Lasky, the conservative author with the fastest typewriter in town, hopes to write a book proving it.

"I've collected an extraordinary amount of material," Lasky says, "and I'm going to try and put the Watergate thing in a bit more perspective. While the cover-up was an extraordinary fact of life, the damn break-in took off on its own. And the truth is that there's a long history of this type of thing, going back to FDR, who bugged people he didn't like."

Lasky, author of the best-selling *JFK: The Man and the Myth*, denies a rumor that some of former President Nixon's friends might bankroll his book the way the Rockefellers quietly put up \$10,000 for his unflattering book about Arthur Goldberg in 1970.

"I have no money at all from anybody," Lasky says, "I'm going to seek money from a publisher."

Footnote: John "Jack" Buckley—the political-private-eye-turned-lawyer—did some research for Lasky into the theory that the Waterbuggers were actually double-agents, but Lasky says Buckley came up empty-handed.