

by Frank Mankiewicz

The melodramatic capture and trial of the burglars, the dirty tricks, the sabotage, the espionage, the cover-up. The black bags, the one-hundred-dollar bills, the fake polls and phone calls, the forged cables. The secret cash funds, the blown safe, the rifling of offices, the destruction of evidence, the compromising of the FBI. Who were these men and what was their view of American politics? Why did the scandal never become an election issue?

Frank Mankiewicz has been a California lawyer. A Washington journalist and an active participant in politics, he is, he says, "one of America's leading Nixon watchers." He was present when the Nixon career began in 1946. He was a classmate at UCLA of both Bob Haldeman and John Erlichman. He was on the Democratic ticket with Helen Gahagan Douglas in 1950, investigated the 1952 "Secret Nixon Fund," was Robert Kennedy's press secretary, and was political director of the McGovern campaign in 1972. He has, in his words, both a long and a short memory. (Quad)

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