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Actor Dustin Hoffman yesterday confirmed reports that he will play Washington Post reporter Carl Bernstein in the film version of "All the President's Men," the story of how the Watergate scandals were uncovered. Robert Redford, whose Wildwood Enterprises will make the movie, was long ago announced for the role of Bob Woodward, the other half of the investigative team.

Walter Coblenz, producer of the film, said from New York that "right this very moment, it's not official" that Hoffman, 37, will be playing Bernstein, 30, but that "we expect it to work out."

Hoffman, in Washington to direct a new play, "All Over Town," said through a spokesman, however, that the report was "true." Filming is set to begin in February and the picture will be released, Coblenz said, by Christmas, 1975.