

Behind the Nixon Crackdown on the Press

by James Reston

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... The White House and the courts, in this controversy with the press and the television and radio networks over the last couple of years, have made their point and won most of the battles. They have created an atmosphere of anxiety, if not fear, among the Washington civil servants, who are the real source of information in this city.

The Nixon Administration lost the Pentagon Papers case in the Supreme Court, and the Watergate bugging case in the Federal District Court, but they won the Caldwell case, and the word has gone out to the civil servants and the press to be very careful about talking too much or exposing too much. And this is probably the signal the Administration wanted to get over in the first place.

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