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## Front-Page Senator

To the Editor:

David Rosenbaum's April 2 news article on the six obscure Senators who will gain the national spotlight as a result of the Watergate inquiry is a fine piece of reporting. It's too bad it wasn't on the editorial page—or at least juxtaposed to the front-page story on Connecticut's Senator Weicker.

It is significant that Senator Weicker requested to be placed on Senator Ervin's select investigative committee. It was at least indiscreet for him to call a press conference immediately following the "secret" testimony of convicted Waterbug James McCord to repeat unsubstantiated allegations reportedly made behind closed doors. It was an embarrassment to the political profession, in which the Senator says he wants people to have "faith," for this ambitious headline seeker to "Face the Nation" (via C.B.S.-TV) and parade the best-known names in Washington across the screen for the sake of sensationalism.

Of course, Mr. Weicker added that he wanted "some corroborative evidence" and that the committee "got none from Mr. McCord," but a little thing like evidence is a secondary consideration when the real object of the exercise is to make the front page. It is very easy to believe that the Senator had no specific knowledge of involvement of high White House and re-election committee officials in the

Watergate case. In fact, he proved that he has very little "specific knowledge" about most of the characters in the plot itself.

For example, if Senator Weicker had spent any time at the Committee for the Re-election of the President, he'd know that Jim McCord probably wasn't lying when he said he "met or talked with" former Attorney General John N. Mitchell "almost every day." He could say the same about most of us who worked there. The question, McCord fails to answer is: "Did the Attorney General talk to *him*?" I'm sure he did—like: "Hello" or "How's the family?"

In his short time in Washington, Senator Weicker probably never got around to reading Will Sparks' book on White House "games." What better motivation for any star-struck staffer down the line than to be told that "the Oval Office wants it." As a "professional politician," as he has called himself, Senator Weicker must know that this game is played all the way down to the precinct level. He must also know that a James McCord or a Gordon Liddy, like a Lowell Weicker, could be borrowing celebrity from others to jack up his own importance.

Those headlines can get to be pretty heavy stuff.

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Washington, April 2, 1973

*The writer was director of publications of the Committee for the Re-election of the President.*