

HERB CAEN



Gathering Notes in May

WASHINGTON: The rats are leaving the sinking rats . . .

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NO, BUT SERIOUSLY folks, even Watergate itself — the building, I mean — is in trouble. Senator Alan Cranston is among the permanent residents there who is suing Watergate's management because his ground-floor apartment has been flooded by seepage from the Potomac River . . . In town last wkend with a good news-bad news offering: Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina. "The good news," he says, "is that Mr. Nixon insists that all those responsible for Watergate must resign. The bad news is that Spiro Agnew is the new President" . . . (We won't have Nixon to kick around for the next three years?) . . . Yesterday morning, Restaurateur Roger Frelier said to a grizzled clerk at the Palo Alto Post Office: "I'm surprised to see you — didn't you tell me you were retiring?" "I was," said the old clerk, with mock dignity, "but I'm staying on till Watergate is cleaned up. I don't want people to think I had anything to do with it" . . . That KCBS newscaster who announced last Friday that L. Patrick Gray was quitting "as chief of the Federal Bureau of Resignation" may not have bobbled words after all . . . For its superb digging into the Watergate story, The Washington Post will win the Pulitzer Prize, which seems hardly enough. How about the Nobel, too?

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