

## Barry Goldwater

## Needed: Conservatives at the Top

WASHINGTON—Like most public scandals of great magnitude, Watergate has spawned many collateral vices, not the least of which is the offense which has become known to the American public as McCarthyism.

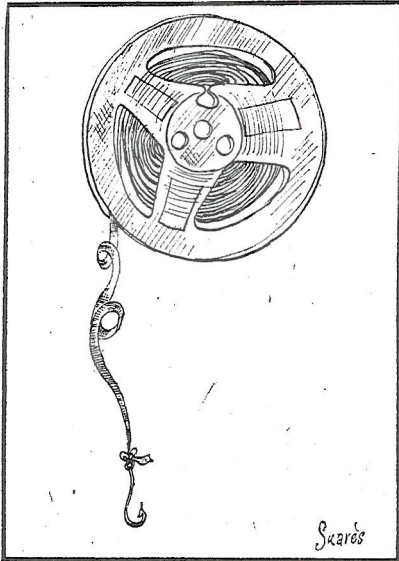
As most readers will recall, "McCarthyism" was the label given to the practice of making (for publication) unsubstantiated charges against men in public life. In the McCarthy instance, the allegations dealt with persons in government whom Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin claimed to be Communists, Communist sympathizers, or outright traitors. One practice which the press found especially distasteful was called "guilt by association." This had to do with allegations that people who associated with Communists must somehow have acquired a political coloration of similar hue.

In the case of Watergate, the charges involve burglary, obstruction of justice, and a whole list of similar charges growing out of the 1972 Presidential campaign. And throughout the months of investigation and revelation, scores of individuals have been named in public without formal charges being lodged. The whole business of "Watergate McCarthyism" very possibly will be seen in later years as one of the more questionable operations of the press and other elements of the news media in this nation's history.

It should be understood that raising this question in no way excuses the scandalous illegalities and irregularities of the Watergate episode. But neither should it be seen as an unqualified vote of confidence in the news media.

I do not intend to go into all the examples of "McCarthyism" which have occurred and are still occurring in connection with the Watergate scandal and related activities. I merely plan to illustrate my point on a personal note. For my money, the cheapest shot of the year so far as the Watergate coverage is concerned was one published in The Washington Star on July 3. It was a column by Mr. Bruce Bioassat distributed to some 200 newspapers by the Newspaper Enterprise Association. I can only say that this was "Watergate McCarthyism" in the raw, which did a great disservice to millions of honest and honorable people who supported my candidacy for President in 1964. Mr. Bioassat informed his readers that "it is not really a far stretch to say that, even though Senator Barry Goldwater lost the Presidency, 'Goldwaterism'—seen as a narrow, rigid, vengeful way of conducting government—has triumphed after all."

At the outset let me make it very plain that the "seeing" of something called "Goldwaterism," in this instance, was entirely one man's vision



—that of Mr. Bioassat. With similar prescience, he saw a Goldwater Administration liberally sprinkled with hot-eyed backers of my campaign.

Of course, "guilt by association" can be carried to ridiculous and illogical extremes. I have no doubt that my campaign was supported by some "hot-eyed" individuals who argued "you are either with us or against us." But as one who saw and talked with many thousands more of these people than any single reporter or group of reporters, I can claim absolutely that the extreme and radical types did not predominate or even come to my attention very often. And while we are at it, let me say that I am convinced that my campaign, Lyndon Johnson's campaign, and every other national campaign ever conducted has probably been supported by murderers, rapists, child beaters and thieves.

And this brings me to a subject I refer to as the Ideology of Watergate. I am convinced beyond any question of a doubt that the Watergate scandal is being used by many diehard liberals to try and resuscitate an outmoded philosophy of government which has failed us for forty years.

I believe, as I told a recent convention of the Young Americans for Freedom, that an attempt is being made to use Watergate to discredit everything the Administration achieved or promised which runs counter to the liberal thesis of unlimited government, excessive Federal spending, endless engineering in the area of social welfare, unilateral disarmament and a policy of isolationism in foreign affairs.

Because the Nixon Administration is more conservative than liberal, of course, attempts already are being made to try and equate the irregularities of the Watergate affair with conservative principles generally. This is the thing we must guard against and

fight against. This is the "big lie" being used by liberal politicians to take maximum unjustified advantage of the Watergate crimes.

I want to be absolutely clear on what I am saying. I am in no way condoning or justifying or excusing the crimes committed in the Watergate break-in and related activities. I see these activities as directly opposed to the principles which I believe conservatism incorporates.

The Nixon Administration would not find itself in the situation it does today if it had been manned at the top by staff people strongly committed to the principles of conservatism. It was not the existence of conservative ideology in the White House or in the Committee to Re-elect the President which brought on the stupidities and the irregularities of the Watergate. Rather—and let me emphasize and underline this assertion—it was the lack of ideology and the lack of experience and the lack of a deeply rooted philosophy of life which brought on the unfortunate and unforgivable activity that has been uncovered in the Watergate investigation.

No sincere conservative that I know would ever adopt the idea that the end justifies the means as seems to have been the case in the Watergate fiasco.

Actually, that premise belongs to the other side. It was used on me in 1964. And that was the premise which led the liberals in the academic world and in the media to defend or pooh-pooh Dr. Ellsberg's theft of confidential and classified government material.

That premise also was the one that led to the virtual enshrining by the liberals of Angela Davis, the Berrigan brothers, the peace rioters and the war dissenters even though serious violations of the law were involved.

It was the liberals, not the conservatives, who promoted the idea that dissenters should choose what laws they would obey and which they would ignore. It was the liberals, not the conservatives, who urged the burning of draft cards and cheered the desertion of military men because they felt the war in Vietnam was special and illegal and because they disagreed with its objectives.

Even so, the existence of this vicious double standard in no way excuses the crimes of Watergate. Nor does it obscure the fact that conservatives are now in the position where they will have to fight and fight hard to retain the ground they have won over the last ten to fifteen years.

This is the second of three articles by Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona.