

Film Rights on Watergate Book Sold

By ERIC PACE

A movie company owned by Robert Redford, the actor, has agreed to pay \$450,000 for the film rights to a book about the Watergate scandals written by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, two investigative reporters for The Washington Post, the book's publisher, said yesterday.

Mr. Redford is to portray Mr. Woodward in the film. It has not yet been decided who will play Mr. Bernstein or President Nixon, should he be portrayed on the screen.

"This is going to be a factual movie," said Richard E. Snyder, executive vice president

of Simon & Schuster, which is publishing the book, entitled "All the President's Men," in June. Figures in the Watergate scandals are to be portrayed in the film under their real names, it was understood, but just which personalities will appear has not been disclosed.

The book, to be a Book-of-the-Month Club selection, is an account of the unraveling of the scandals, in which the co-authors played a major role.

Simon & Schuster acquired rights to the work, including control of movie rights, for a minimum advance guarantee of \$60,000. It then sold the film

rights to Mr. Redford's production company through the Ziegler-Ross agency in California.

The Redford concern, Wildwood Production Company, is now understood to be in final negotiations with Warner Brothers for an arrangement under which Wildwood would make the movie on behalf of Warner, which would handle financing and distribution.

Less than 15 per cent of the \$450,000 is to go to Simon & Schuster and Ziegler-Ross, a Simon & Schuster executive reported. That leaves the two reporters with about \$200,000 apiece.

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