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Book Says Leaks Enraged Nixon

From News Dispatches

CHICAGO, April 7 — President Nixon went on a rampage — he was “wild, shouting and hollering” — early last year over Watergate news leaks, according to excerpts from a book on the scandal released here today.

People were told to go to any length to stop the leaks, according to the excerpts from the book, “All the President’s Men,” by Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, who broke open the Watergate story and received a number of journalistic awards for their investigation.

The excerpts are being published in Playboy magazine next month and in June.

Woodward said in the book that one of his unidentified major news sources, whom he nicknamed “Deep Throat,” was an administration official who had access to information from the White House, the Justice Department, the FBI and the Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP), which organized Mr. Nixon’s 1972 campaign.

Woodward and Bernstein also reveal that Hugh W. Sloan Jr., onetime treasurer of the President’s re-election committee, was a major source of information for them.

The source known as “Deep Throat” was quoted as telling Woodward in early 1973: “Our President has gone on a rampage about news leaks on Watergate. He’s told the appropriate people to ‘go to any length’ to stop them. When he says that, he really means business.”

“At a meeting, (Mr.) Nixon said that the money left over from the (election) campaign, about \$5 million or so, might as well be used to take The Washington Post down a notch.

“(Mr.) Nixon was wild, shouting and hollering that,



HUGH W. SLOAN JR.
... gave information

“We can’t have it and we’re going to stop it. I don’t care how much it costs.”

“His theory is that the news media have gone way too far and the trend has to be stopped ... almost like he was talking about federal spending.”

Giving the story a cloak-and-dagger atmosphere, Woodward described how he would signal he wanted to meet “Deep Throat” by moving a flowerpot, holding a red flag, on his (Woodward’s) balcony. He would then meet his source in an underground garage in the middle of the night after taking at least two taxis to lose anyone who might be following.

Each morning, Woodward said, he would look at Page 20 in The New York Times that was delivered to his home. If “Deep Throat” wanted a meeting, the page number would be circled and the hands of a clock pointing to the meeting time would appear in a lower corner of the page. Woodward wrote that he did not know the newspapers.

The two reporters, describing their investigations, said

employees of the re-election committee expressed fears that they were being followed and that their telephones were tapped.

“‘Deep Throat’ had talked about how politics had infiltrated every corner of government—a strongarm takeover of the agencies by the Nixon White House,” the reporters wrote.

The excerpts contain a telephone conversation between John Mitchell, now standing trial in New York, and Bernstein the night The Washington Post reported that Mitchell, while Attorney General, had controlled a secret Republican fund that was used to gather information about the Democrats.

“Mitchell: ‘Yes.’

“Bernstein: ‘Sir, I’m sorry to disturb you at this hour (11:30 p.m.) but we are running a

story in tomorrow’s paper that, in effect, says you controlled secret funds at the committee (to re-elect the President) while you were Attorney General.’

“Mitchell: ‘Jeeeeeeeeesus. You said that? What does it say?’

“Bernstein: ‘I’ll read you the first few paragraphs.’ (He got as far as the third. Mitchell responded ‘Jeeeeeeeeesus’ every few words) ...

“Mitchell: ‘What time is it?’

“Bernstein: ‘Eleven-thirty. I’m sorry to call so late.’

“Mitchell: ‘Eleven-thirty. Eleven-thirty when?’

“Bernstein: ‘Eleven-thirty at night.’

“Mitchell: ‘Oh’ ...

“Bernstein: ‘Sir, about the story—’

“Mitchell: ‘Call my law office in the morning.’ He hung up.”