

Only Woodward Knew for Sure

By Jean M. White

Reprinted from yesterday's late editions

If Deep Throat was among the 700 guests, only he and Bob Woodward really know.

Deep Throat, now equally famous as an anonymous source and the title of a blue movie, sooner or later was an inevitable topic of conversation Thursday night at the book-launching party for "All the President's Men," the political whodunit that tells how two young reporters, Woodward and Carl Bernstein, pieced together the flood of Watergate.

"Is Deep Throat here?" Woodward was asked in surreptitious aside.

"Nice try," said Woodward. "But we're not going beyond the sources in the book."

He also made a nice try, giving the impression that he really wasn't bored with the question and that he really might not recognize Deep Throat, except in the dim light of an underground parking lot, where he met his still-unidentified source.

Simon and Schuster, the book publishers, threw a lavish party Thursday night for their two moneymaking authors (Book-of-the-Month Club, paperback rights, movie rights) on the lovely terraced garden behind the Textile Museum at 2320 S St. NW.

To insure a proper Washington party with a flair, the publishers hired Bess Abell, former White House social secretary to Lady Bird Johnson, to make the arrangements.

"I've met more reporters who have written books who are complaining that their publishers never did anything like this for them. All I ever got was a few crummy lunches," observed one reporter-author guest, who **did not** ask to remain anonymous, but shall.

Finally a representative of Simon and Schuster, the publishers, was taken aside and asked the cost of the party with its well-stocked tables laden with hot hors d'oeuvres, ice sculptures, cheeses and plump strawberries to be dipped in powdered sugar.

"I really don't know," said this uninformed source. "But I do know we have invited more than 400 to the Rainbow Room on Tuesday for the New York party. Now I

do know about New York parties."

The book, with all its subsidiary rights, probably has made the two reporters half-millionaires (before taxes) in their bare 30s.

Asked about this earlier, Bernstein replied, with a pause for some fast arithmetic:

"I guess so, if you add it all up. Certainly not after taxes. The trouble is that we haven't got the money yet."

Bernstein, who still does not own a car and rides his old bike to work, then was asked if he had hired a financial adviser yet.

"Is this on the record or for background?" he wanted to know.

The guests, who came after invitations that promised "unrecorded conversations," included scores of nonworking members of the press, plus a sprinkling of the cast of public characters of the Watergate drama.

Sen. Lowell P. Weicker (R-Conn.), who became an afternoon television star, as a member of the Senate Select Watergate Committee, was at the party, along with Sam Dash and Fred Thompson, the committee counsels.

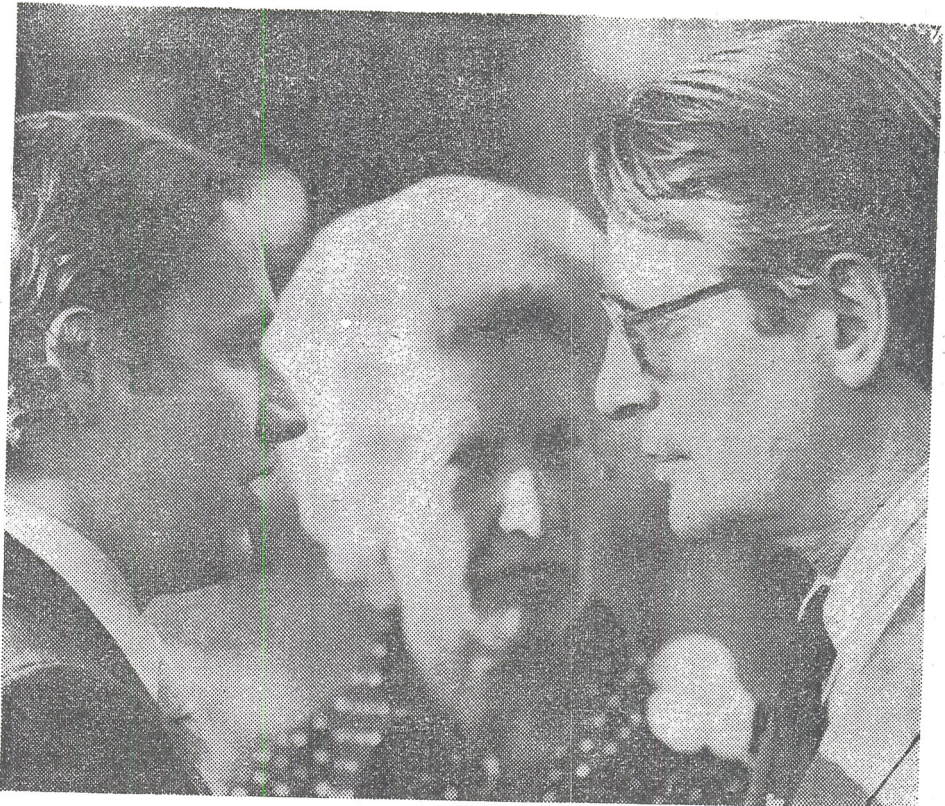
Two victims but survivors of the so-called Saturday night massacre, former attorney General Elliot Richardson and former Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus, also were there.

Nancy Chotiner, whose late husband was a longtime friend and adviser to President Nixon, met Bernstein for the first time when she came to the party.

"I remember Murray talked to Carl on the phone. Murray had a way with reporters and I remembered those calls," Mrs. Chotiner said, emphasizing that her husband was not one of the anonymous sources.

Chotiner, who died in a car accident early this year, is mentioned in "All the President's Men," but the authors emphasized in a footnote that there was absolutely no evidence to substantiate suggestions that Chotiner was involved in the Watergate bugging.

Mrs. Chotiner said she was "very interested" in a post on the board of directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, an appointment reported as under consideration by President Nixon.



By Larry Morris—The Washington Post

Bob Woodward, left, talks to former Attorney General Elliot Richardson at Thursday night's book-launching party. Woodward's mother, Jane Barnes, center, was among the guests.

The guest list also included the name of Frank Wills, the guard who blew the whistle on the Watergate burglars, but it could not be confirmed by two sources that he made the party.

Among those who did, according to Mrs. Abell, were Robert McCandless, lawyer for John Dean, and Steve Shulman, lawyer for Egil Krogh. "If 'All the President's Men' didn't make it, some former Presidents' men and women did, including lawyer Joseph Califano, a White House aide to President Johnson; Grace Tully, secretary to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Juanita Roberts, LBJ's secretary.

Sitting on the terrace overlooking the main party on the lawn was Marion Stirling, ("spelt with an 'i' for the Scottish") who said that she was a trustee of the Textile Museum, which had rented its gardens for the party.

"One of the trustees called me and said he was concerned how this crowd and the party would come out. So I'm checking. I think it's charming and we should use our gardens more for such events," said a reassured Mrs. Stirling.