

'Deep Throat' Named-- CIA Front, Paper Says

"Deep Throat," reporter Bob Woodward's celebrated source for many of the Washington Post's disclosures about the Watergate coverup, was identified by Rolling Stone magazine yesterday as Robert F. Bennett, a front man for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Bennett was acting for the CIA when he made his disclosures while he was president of a Washington public relations firm that served as a CIA front, the magazine said.

The copyright article by Howard Kohn said Bennett had connections with the then-White House adviser Charles Colson as well as the Hughes organization and the CIA.

He is now an employee of the Summa Corp. a holding of the late billionaire recluse Howard Hughes.

These connections, it said, permitted him to provide information about the coverup while protecting the CIA and Hughes from media scrutiny.

Bennett fed Woodward the information on the instructions of the CIA, Rolling Stone alleged.

Kohn cited as his sources an unnamed former CIA operative and

an unnamed Watergate investigator.

The article quoted from what Kohn said was an internal CIA memo made available to the Senate Watergate Committee:

"Bennett has been feeding stories to Bob Woodward with the understanding there would be no attribution to Bennett. Woodward is suitably grateful for the fine stories and bylines he gets and protects Bennett."

Bennett is the son of retired Utah Senator Wallace Bennett, a Republican.

His public relations firm was Robert R. Mullen and Co., which once employed E. Howard Hunt, who was sentenced to 2 ½ years in prison after pleading guilty to Watergate break-in charges.

Neither Bennett nor Woodward, who was on a promotional tour for "The Final Days," his new book written with reporter Carl Bernstein, could be reached for comment on the Rolling Stone story.