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Mystery Surrounds Leak Of Haldeman's Book

New York

Despite elaborate precautions, including sealed book-delivery trucks and "almost clandestine" dealings with newspaper editors, the New York Times yesterday lost the battle to keep H.R. Haldeman's book, "The Ends of Power," under wraps.

Scooped by the Washington Post and subscribers to its news service on details of Haldeman's book, the Times decided yesterday to publish excerpts of the book ahead of scheduled Monday release date. The Times had exclusive rights to the book and its syndication. One of its clients was Newsweek magazine.

The Washington Post printed a substantial summary and quotes from the book despite extreme secrecy observed by the publishers, the Quadrangle New York Times Book Co., to prevent unauthorized use before the official publication date.

One unanswered question is how the Post — which is owned by the same publishing company as Newsweek — obtained a copy of Haldeman's work.

Newsweek reportedly paid \$125,000 for the right to publish two 15,000-word extracts. The New York Times news syndicate, in a separate deal, sold a five-part series, edited by Clifton Daniel, to about 50 newspapers.

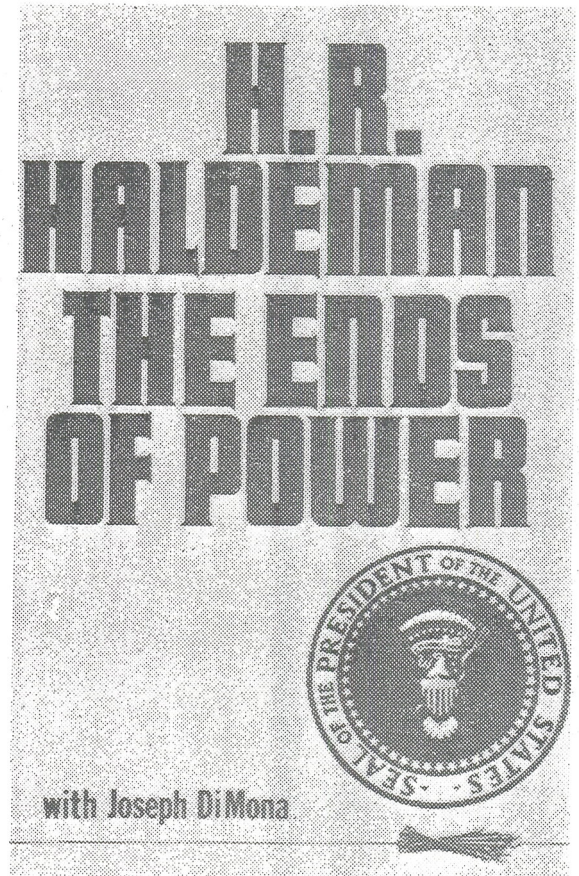
Both were scheduled to begin running the articles next Monday.

The book goes on sale to the public February 27, and about 325,000 copies are printed and on their way to book stores in sealed trucks.

But all the secrecy and security precautions could not prevent the book from somehow getting to the Washington Post.

At the New York Times, an executive who declined to be identified said, "I don't know how, but somewhere along the line someone got it.

"I can't speculate who or where — that might lead to a lawsuit," he said. But he did not think the leak was from Newsweek. "We sold to Newsweek — they were coordinating the release with us."



AP Wirephoto

The jacket from Haldeman's book

The Washington Post story changed everyone's plans.

The New York Times news syndicate announced yesterday that The New York Times will publish all five of Daniels' articles in today's editions of the Times and that the other publications that bought syndication rights could do the same.

United Press