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**“I AM NOT A CROOK!”: THE NIXON
ADMINISTRATION AND THE WATERGATE SCANDAL
BACKGROUND GUIDE**

TRITONMUN XXVII APRIL 27TH–28TH, 2024

MODEL UNITED NATIONS AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

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HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Hello Delegates!

My name is Sam Ivezich and I will be the chair for the Nixon Administration Watergate committee! I am a first year master's student at UCSD studying biology, completing my thesis work on inherited cardiac disease. I have done MUN throughout high school and undergraduate, but this will be my last year as I intend to graduate this June! I currently serve as the Travel Director for MUN at UCSD and love competing on the circuit. Specifically, crisis committees hold a special place in my heart as they are both my favorite to chair AND compete in. I am happy to answer any questions regarding school, graduate degrees, science, college MUN, etc!

I am excited to see what the resultant outcome of this committee will be, as there are infinite possibilities to where this could go. I encourage everyone to strategize and come up with creative solutions for espionage and covert operations ahead of the conference, as well as do a little background research on your characters. It is an interesting position to knowingly be doing bad, but doing everything in your power to stay in power as a committee, not just an individual. Not often is the front room arc as dubious as the back room! I look forward to your own individual arcs and interpretations of the characters.

Optimistically waiting for our meeting in April, please feel free to reach out with any questions relating to the background guide, your character, committee flow, etc.

Best Wishes,

Sam Ivezich

Chair, Nixon Watergate

travelingtritons@gmail.com

VICE CHAIR LETTER

Hello Delegates!

My name is Orlando Hill and I am your Vice Chair for the Nixon Administration Watergate committee! I am a second year Urban Studies and Planning student, with a focus on housing and transportation. I'm very new to MUN, joining MUN @ UCSD in Fall of 2023. While my experience is limited, I've already made the best of my time at MUN, staffing a similar crisis committee at our Fall TritonMUN event and will be traveling as part of UCSD's delegation to the North American MUN conference in Toronto, Canada. So far I've enjoyed crisis committees the most for their intensity and variety. If you have any questions about the function of the committee itself you'd likely be better served emailing Sam, but if you have questions about applying to university, urban planning, the importance of active, multimodal transit, or why Cars 2 is the best of the trilogy my email is ojhill@ucsd.edu.

While I was initially skeptical of a crisis committee built around the Watergate crisis, you'll find through this guide and your own research that the nuances of the event create with them an engaging variety of possibilities. While your goals and aims within this committee are ultimately up to your discretion, I'd like to remind you all that you are public servants, and for better or worse your duty is to do right to the American people. What that looks like however, is up to your interpretation, I look forward to how this crisis will unfold with all of you at the helm.

I am excited for our committee in April, and till then you're welcome to reach out to me or our Chair Sam with anything related to his committee.

Best Wishes,

Orlando Hill

Vice Chair, Nixon Watergate

POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

TRITONMUN POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due on **April 19 at 11:59pm.**
 - Requests for extensions must be sent by the advisor to TritonMUN by **April 12.**
- Position Papers must be submitted to the **Google Form** linked here:
 - <https://forms.gle/JNoL2doZPeAbmzkRA>
- Format
 - For committees with one topic there should be two pages for the topic with an additional page for citations, for a total of 3 pages.
 - Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures.
 - At the top of each paper, include your country/person, name, committee, and topic.
 - Required* Sections: Each of these sections should be clearly labeled
 - Background
 - Past Actions by the Committee (if applicable)
 - Position of your Country/Person
 - Possible Solutions

*Some committees may ask for different formatting or an alternative to a position paper altogether, this will be clearly noted in the background guide for that committee

COMMITTEE POLICIES

- This will be a no tech committee; notepads for crisis notes will be provided. It is advised to bring your own notebook/paper for directive writing and inter-committee note passing. Please also have your own research notes in a physical format, not on a device, if you wish to reference during committee.
- Regular ROP (for crisis) will be in place as it is written in the TritonMUN official guide. Please refer to our ROP guide online for more information. ROP will also be clarified day-of.
- Delegates will be able to pass directives as a committee, turn in personal crisis notes to the backroom (two notebook system) and submit Joint-Personal Directives with other committee members.

Quota for sponsors and signatories will be determined at conference date based on attendance.

“I AM NOT A CROOK!”: NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

INTRODUCTION

Though now regarded as one of most disgraced presidents in history, Richard Nixon was at one point one of the most popular politicians in history. While this can be hard to image, Nixon thrived on American sentiments of anti-communism and wishing to resolve tough relations abroad, making these focuses centric to all of his campaigns and early tenures in office. He was one of the striking forces in the House



Source: Washington Post

Un-American Activities Committee, “protecting” the American public from “dangerous” communists amongst them, as well as one of the first overtly and publicly active Vice Presidents, serving as diplomat to the American cause. This easily paved the way for his presidential win in 1968.

All throughout these endeavors; however, it should unsurprisingly be noted that Nixon was never afraid to engage in “dirty politics” and smear campaigns against his adversaries. The ultimate culmination of this is obviously the Watergate scandal and surrounding activities of his top aides and advisors against the DNC and other “enemies,” but all throughout his political career, Nixon and his team commonly employed questionable and often aggressive tactics against his opponents. It should be no surprise that the Nixon response to the emerging evidence against him in the Watergate scandal was also aggressive and tactical, though questionably executed and thought out. From firing whistleblowers and paying off burglars to keep quiet, to a suspicious 18 ½ minute gap in White House tape recordings that was erased by “sinister forces,”

Nixon maintains that he is “not a crook,” up until his resignation on August 8th 1974, over two years after the initial scandal on June 17th 1972¹.

This committee will canonically begin on January 20th 1973, with the swearing in of Richard Nixon for a second term and then the beginning of the Senate probe into the Watergate scandal. While the FBI had been investigating the incident since it occurred in June 1972, and a number of Nixon associates had already been flagged as suspicious, investigated, or indicted, the Senate Watergate Committee, formally known as the Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, marked a much more definitive investigation into Nixon and his administration’s specific involvement, since previous actions only indicted the burglars and direct organizers of the Watergate break-in on the scene, not the potential involvement of the president or White House. Further, while the FBI investigations had been largely internal minus a few leaks to the press, the Senate hearings were televised and public, leading to a much greater response not only from the American people, but also from Nixon and his team as they were implicated in more and more involvement by the day. Thus, your job as the cabinet of Nixon is to play on defense against the investigation, operating at all costs to maintain GOP power and influence, as well as prevent yourself, and the president, from being implicated in crimes you may or may not have committed. However, to understand how we got here, it is imperative to start from the very beginning.



Source: US Senate

¹ Farnsworth, Malcolm. “Watergate Chronology.” Watergate.info, 2012, watergate.info/chronology.

NIXON'S RISE TO POWER

Nixon's political career began largely in 1946 wherein he was elected to the House of Representatives, replacing longtime congressman and Democrat Jerry Voorhis in the 12th Congressional District, which encompasses Los Angeles County. Nixon, a Republican, was known to prominently speak out about the "dangers of communism," leaning on this tactic to accuse his political opponents and take advantage of the American Red Scare. Using "red-baiting," Nixon was able to lean on his American military career and public fear of the Soviet Union to oust Voorhis from his seat and earn the public trust, thus beginning a nearly 30 year long political career^{2 3}.

In 1948 Nixon joined the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), a body of the House of Representatives tasked with investigation of "communist" activities threatening United States security. Almost immediately, Nixon became a prominent force within the committee. Later that year in April 1948, Nixon co-authored a bill that inherently sought to forbid the following of communism in America. While the bill was able to pass the House, it ultimately failed to get approval by the Senate. Further, in the notable investigation of former State Department official Alger Hiss for suspected ties to the Communist Party, Nixon took a forefront role with his intense questioning of Hiss during the hearings. In all, his activities within the committee were earning him a reputation nationwide as a politician who was heading the cause against communism in the United States⁴. When up for reelection in 1948, Nixon was easily able to retain his position in the House⁵.

In 1950, Richard Nixon defeated Democrat Helen Gahagan Douglas to win a seat in the Senate representing the state of California. In this particular election, Nixon and his campaign distributed "pink sheets" which displayed Gahagan Douglas' voting record next to that of left wing representative Vito Marcantonio. Once again utilizing fear-mongering tactics to paint his

² "Horace Jeremiah (Jerry) Voorhis [1901-1984]." New Netherland Institute, www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/history-and-heritage/dutch_americans/horace-jeremiah-jerry-voorhis.

³ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Richard Nixon | Facts, Accomplishments, Watergate, & Resignation." Encyclopædia Britannica, 5 Jan. 2019, www.britannica.com/biography/Richard-Nixon.

⁴ Wallenfeldt, Jeff. "House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC)." Encyclopedia Britannica, 1 Aug. 2023, www.britannica.com/money/topic/House-Un-American-Activities-Committee.

⁵ National Archives. "President Nixon | Richard Nixon Museum and Library." Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives, 2000, www.nixonlibrary.gov/president-nixon.

opponent as a potential sympathizer to the communists, Nixon was successfully able to seed enough public distrust of Gahagan Douglas to secure himself the seat. He can be quoted as stating during his campaign that his opponent was “pink right down to her underwear” (a descriptor meant to refer to someone sympathetic to the communist cause). This aggressive campaign strategy is what eventually earned Nixon the nickname “Tricky Dick.”⁶⁷



Source: Politico

Nixon went on to win the Vice Presidential nomination at the Republican National Convention in 1952, running on a ticket with Dwight D. Eisenhower. Voters at the time were impressed with his staunch anti-communist stance and his record of taking action against the ideology’s “imminent threat” to America. During the campaign, Nixon was implicated in a controversy surrounding a “slush fund” that allegedly was providing him personal funds under the guise of political donations. In a televised address, Nixon countered by listing out all of his financial assets, noting that the “only” political gift he had ever accepted was a cocker spaniel that his daughter later named Checkers. This famous address was later termed the “Checkers” speech. At the time, many thought the speech was unsuccessful due to its seemingly silly and trivial content; however, in the end and at the polls, it appeared to sway the public favorably. Eisenhower and Nixon were elected in a landslide victory against Stevenson and Sparkman, winning the electoral college 442 to 89.⁸

⁶ National Archives. “President Nixon | Richard Nixon Museum and Library.”

⁷ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. “Richard Nixon | Facts, Accomplishments, Watergate, & Resignation.”

⁸ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. “Richard Nixon | Facts, Accomplishments, Watergate, & Resignation.”

VICE PRESIDENCY

Nixon ultimately served two terms as Vice President under Dwight D. Eisenhower. Largely, a lot of Nixon's responsibilities at this time can be summed up as active campaigns and support initiatives for the Republican party, but not a lot of actual contributions to policy passed during the administration. However, Nixon did greatly expand the power and influence of the office of the Vice President, a role that had previously been seen as fairly sedentary and unimportant in the eye of the American public.^{9 10}

Between the year of 1955 to 1957, Eisenhower was largely incapacitated due to a number of health crises, including a heart attack, ileitis, and a stroke. During this time Nixon took the reins on several cabinet sessions and chaired the National Security Council. However, Nixon quickly caught onto the fact that although he was the Vice President, much of the power still was held by cabinet advisors to Eisenhower, despite Nixon's direct election by the American public. After Eisenhower recovered, Nixon pushed for a more formalized agreement of powers and responsibilities of the Vice President, an arrangement which was adopted by following administrations and later ratified into the constitution via the twenty-fifth amendment. This was just one way Nixon left a lasting mark on the office of the Vice President.¹¹

Nixon was also able to increase the visibility of the Vice Presidential role in part by playing a key role in international affairs and diplomatic trips. Most notably, Nixon and his wife Pat took a tour of Latin America in 1958. While in Venezuela, the Nixons were spat on by protestors and their motorcade attacked, leading to the injury of Venezuela's foreign minister, but no harm to the Vice President or Second Lady. The danger to Nixon was nevertheless real and



Source: Truman Library

⁹ National Archives. "President Nixon | Richard Nixon Museum and Library."

¹⁰ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Richard Nixon | Facts, Accomplishments, Watergate, & Resignation."

¹¹ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Richard Nixon | Facts, Accomplishments, Watergate, & Resignation."

present; however, the calmness displayed by Nixon during the whole ordeal garnered him international acclaim and only bolstered his public support back in the United States. His image as an American force fighting for democracy even in the face of danger was stronger than ever.¹²

In 1959, Nixon was sent to the Soviet Union as the official representative of the United States, attending the grand opening of the American National Exhibition located in Moscow. Due to the Cold War and Soviet tensions at the time, this affair was extremely publicized and followed by the American people. In a now famous exchange, Nixon and Soviet official Nikita Khrushchev engaged in a slightly heated discussion while standing in a model of a standard American kitchen that was part of the exhibition. While the conversation first started at comparing standards of living between the two nations, it allegedly quickly devolved into a back and forth about the two nations' relative military strength and competing ideologies. This incident was later called the "Kitchen Debate" and once again, boosted Nixon's status as a Republican politician and defender of Western democracy.¹³



Source: Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

Nixon ran for president in 1960 and received the Republican party nomination. Unfortunately, the Democratic nominee at this time was none other than John F. Kennedy, another extremely well-liked politician who was favored by younger audiences and generally exerted charisma and energy that encapsulated American voters. A series of four debates was televised to the American public, allowing for unprecedented direct comparison of the two front runner candidates. Somewhere between 85-120 million Americans watched at least one of these debates. While both candidates performed generally well, in the end Kennedy was able to edge out Nixon in the electoral vote, winning 303 electors to Nixon's 219. Only 117,000 votes separated the two in the popular vote. Interestingly, some top Republicans cited potential voting irregularities in a couple of states, which they claimed may have tipped Kennedy over the edge

¹² National Archives. "President Nixon | Richard Nixon Museum and Library."

¹³ National Archives. "President Nixon | Richard Nixon Museum and Library."

to the electoral win, but ultimately Nixon decided not to contest the election results, despite some urging from party members.^{14 15}

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

In 1968 Nixon opted once again to seek election to the Presidency. He faced notable challengers for the party nomination such as Ronald Reagan, Nelson Rockefeller, and George Romney, but ultimately emerged victorious. Public opinion, especially amongst Republican voters, was still largely positive towards Nixon at this time. While Nixon's previous actions obviously largely led to this approval, the United States also was finding itself in a time of a lot of uncertainty under Lyndon B. Johnson's administration and ongoing Vietnam war. Since Nixon had been a reliable and strong defender of American ideals, as well as perceived as a politician who was able to remain calm in the face of chaos, many Americans believed he was just what the country needed to get back on track.

In a somewhat shocking and unexpected decision, Nixon chose Spiro Agnew as his Vice Presidential running mate. Agnew, the governor of Maryland, was favored by southern politicians. To gain southern support, Nixon not only promised to appoint a Vice President deemed favorable by group, but also actions such throwing support to "strict constructionists" and appointing them to the federal judiciary, as well as adding a southern judge to the Supreme Court. Nixon also ran on a platform to "crackdown" on illegal drugs and end the draft in the United States.^{16 17}

Due to failures within his term, Johnson decided not to run for reelection, prompting the nomination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy as the Democratic candidate. However, not long after this nomination Kennedy was assassinated and Vice Presidential nominee Hubert Humphrey then became the ticket candidate for the Democrats. Then, if the Democratic party were not already in chaos, mass protests erupted at the Democratic National Convention, leading to a public view of instability and distrust within the party. Once again, "reliable" Richard Nixon and the "calmer" Republican party were fast tracked into the limelight of American politics.

¹⁴ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Richard Nixon | Facts, Accomplishments, Watergate, & Resignation."

¹⁵ Levy, Michael. "United States Presidential Election of 1960." Encyclopædia Britannica, 1 Nov. 2018, www.britannica.com/event/United-States-presidential-election-of-1960.

¹⁶ Levy, Michael. "United States Presidential Election of 1960."

¹⁷ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Richard Nixon | Facts, Accomplishments, Watergate, & Resignation."

Ultimately, Nixon won the election of 1968 with 302 electoral votes to Humphrey's 191. Nixon additionally garnered over 500,000 more individual votes than Humphrey, which is not too sizable of a margin, but nearly four times more than the number of votes Kennedy beat Nixon with in 1960. Nixon is one of only a few people who won the presidential election without gaining the majority popular vote— he won only 43.4% of overall voters.^{18 19}



Source: New York Times

EARLY PRESIDENCY

Much of Nixon's first days in office were dedicated to addressing the Vietnam War and how America should seek to end it. Clearly, the war had been causing mass amounts of unrest and instability within the United States, prompting the Nixon administration to prioritize a solution as soon as possible. Between a televised address in November of 1969, in which Nixon asserted the policy of his administration to seek peace, as well as his "Vietnamization" plan to reduce troops in Vietnam and transfer roles to the South Vietnamese. All this being said, at the same time military presence in Cambodia and Laos were increased, and bombings of North Vietnam that had previously been suspended by Lyndon B. Johnson was resumed. This caused widespread protest and even led to incidents such as the Kent State shooting in May of 1970,

¹⁸ Sheetz, Kathleen . "United States Presidential Election of 1968." Encyclopædia Britannica, 2020, www.britannica.com/event/United-States-presidential-election-of-1968/General-election-campaign.

¹⁹ National Archives. "President Nixon | Richard Nixon Museum and Library."

wherein a member of the Ohio National Guard fired into a crowd of protestors at a demonstration. Peace attempts were drawn up in October 1972, but were objected to by the South Vietnamese. More bombings across Hanoi and North Vietnam occurred before a new agreement was drawn up in January of 1973 and signed. This effectively ended the war in Vietnam, calling for an immediate ceasefire, withdrawal of American troops, and release of war prisoners. By March 29th, 1973, the troop count in Vietnam had reached zero, previously totaling over 500,000 four years prior.^{20 21}

Other notable events during Nixon's first term include his many initiatives related to international diplomacy, specifically with longstanding "rivals" to the United States. In early 1972, Nixon traveled around China and engaged with talks with Chairman Mao Zedong, leader of China and the Chinese Communist Party. This meeting marked the first time in over 20 years that the United States and the People's Republic of China had had an official sit down and discussion between leaders. This was not the only tense relationship that Nixon sought to address, but also in May of 1972, Nixon traveled to Moscow, seeking to meet with Soviet leaders. This trip to the USSR yielded the signing of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT), which was a nuclear limitations treaty between the two nations, as well as the Basic Principles of U.S.-Soviet Relations, which sought to put into writing the established relationship between the US and USSR, attempting to ease the tensions long standing in the current Cold War.^{22 23}

Finally, some additional accomplishments during Nixon's first term include the first manned mission to the moon in which Neil Armonstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first two people to walk on the moon. Nixon personally called these astronauts from the Oval Office in what was termed the "longest-distance telephone call ever made." In 1971, Nixon abolished the draft, as he had promised



Source: US National Archive

²⁰ National Archives. "President Nixon | Richard Nixon Museum and Library."

²¹ Wallenfeldt, Jeff. "Richard Nixon - Foreign Affairs." Encyclopedia Britannica, www.britannica.com/biography/Richard-Nixon/Foreign-affairs.

²² Wallenfeldt, Jeff. "Richard Nixon - Foreign Affairs."

²³ National Archives. "President Nixon | Richard Nixon Museum and Library."

to do in his campaign for president, and also took the U.S. dollar off of the gold standard, instead having it compared to other national currencies. During his first term he also attempted to introduce many new social and economical assistance programs, to varying degrees of success.²⁴

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

The Watergate complex is a series of buildings in Washington D.C., consisting of a hotel, office spaces, and apartments, which are most often occupied by politicians and workers in government in the U.S. Capitol²⁵. On June 17th, 1972, a nighttime security officer, Frank Wills, noticed a strangely taped-open door in the parking garage of the complex. Wills removed the tape and continued his patrol, but when he returned to the same area, he found the door once again taped. Thus, Wills became suspicious and raised the alarm²⁶. At 2:30am, five men were arrested for attempting to bug Democratic National Committee offices, which were located on the sixth floor of the Watergate Office Building²⁷.

On June 19th, 1972 it was reported that one of the Watergate burglars was a security aide for the GOP. The attorney general at the time, John Mitchell, officially denied any knowledge or involvement. Mitchell was head of the re-election campaign for Richard Nixon in the 1972 election. For a couple of months, the Watergate story goes quiet to the public. However, in secret, Nixon appointed John Dean, White House counsel, to work on a coverup to hide and continue denying the administration's involvement. The FBI, who was investigating the incident, was actively blocked internally by Nixon. On August 1st, 1972, it was reported that a \$25,000 cashier's check was sent to a Watergate burglar from Nixon's campaign.²⁸

Despite the mounting allegations, and the FBI concluding that the Watergate break in was done on behalf of the Nixon campaign for reelection, Nixon won his second presidential term in a landslide victory against Democratic candidate George McGovern from South Dakota in the

²⁴ National Archives. "President Nixon | Richard Nixon Museum and Library."

²⁵ "Watergate Complex." Commission of Fine Arts, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, www.cfa.gov/about-cfa/design-topics/private-development/watergate-complex.

²⁶ News, ABC. "The 1972 Watergate Burglary: How a Piece of Tape and an Astute Night Watchman Foiled the Political Crime of the Century." ABC News, ABC News Network, 13 June 2017, abcnews.go.com/Politics/1972-watergate-burglary-piece-tape-astute-night-watchman/story?id=47914192.

²⁷ Farnsworth, Malcolm. "Watergate Chronology." Watergate.info, 2012, watergate.info/chronology.

²⁸ Wallenfeldt, Jeff. "Richard Nixon - Watergate and Other Scandals." Encyclopedia Britannica, www.britannica.com/biography/Richard-Nixon/Watergate-and-other-scandals.

1972 election²⁹. A mere 10 days after Nixon was sworn in for a second presidential term, former aides James W. McCord Jr and G. Gordon Liddy were convicted for involvement in the Watergate break in³⁰. (*Note: In context of the committee, neither Liddy nor McCord have been arrested, yet.*)



Source: The Richard Nixon Library & Museum

McCord, who was head of security for Nixon's reelection campaign, was one of the burglars arrested at the Watergate complex on the night of June 17th. However, it was later uncovered that this was not the first time he had broken into the building. On May 28th, 1972, McCord and six other burglars had previously broken in, taken pictures of the DNC and planted bugs. Clearly, a few weeks later when they tried to do it for a second time, they were caught³¹.

Liddy, who was formerly one of the White House Plumbers, an investigative unit that sought to source out news leaks that was eventually disbanded, was found to be involved in not only a string of espionage against the DNC, but also as part of the group that broke into the psychiatrist office of Daniel Ellsberg, the journalist who leaked the Pentagon Papers detailing the actual status of the war in Vietnam³². The leak of the Pentagon Papers, which were generally condemning of the actions of the U.S. government in the Vietnam war, infuriated Nixon, who at the time was still running for reelection in 1972³³. Thus, aides to Nixon, such as Liddy, sought to retaliate in the ways aforementioned. Liddy was not one of the burglars caught in the Watergate complex the night of the 17th, but instead was the mastermind behind the plan itself,

²⁹ Wallenfeldt, Jeff. "Richard Nixon - Watergate and Other Scandals."

³⁰ Farnsworth, Malcolm. "Watergate Chronology." Watergate.info, 2012, watergate.info/chronology.

³¹ Farrell, John A. "James McCord: The Watergate Burglar Who Cracked." Politico, 29 Dec. 2019, www.politico.com/news/magazine/2019/12/29/james-mccord-watergate-burglar-obituary-086480.

³² Frommer, Fred. "G. Gordon Liddy | Biography, Watergate, & Facts | Britannica." Encyclopedia Britannica, 26 Nov. 2023, www.britannica.com/biography/G-Gordon-Liddy.

³³ Tikkanen, Amy. "Pentagon Papers." Encyclopædia Britannica, 18 Sept. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/Pentagon-Papers.

orchestrating McCord and the four other burglars from a Watergate hotel room. He was assisted in leading both the Watergate incident and Ellsberg incident by E. Howard Hunt, a former CIA agent and White House plumber. Funnily enough, all three men— McCord, Hunt, and Liddy— as well as aforementioned Attorney General John Mitchell, were all a part of the Committee to Reelect the President, aptly abbreviated as “CREEP.”³⁴

During this time several news outlets were trying to investigate the potential involvement of the White House in the scandal. A major assistance to the press was an unnamed source entitled “Deep Throat,” who fed a large number of the published stories and updates about the scandal to the press. (The identity of the informant wasn’t revealed until 2005!)³⁵

In February of 1973, the Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities was formed (also known as the Senate Watergate Committee). This committee was established to investigate Nixon and his administration on their involvement in the scandal as well as the potential coverup. John Dean, who had previously been asked by the president to deny their involvement, officially came forward to the committee and shared what he had been told, alongside many others who testified to the illegal actions of the president and “CREEP.” Not only did the operations of the Watergate break-in start coming to light during these committee hearings, but also additional evidence of foul play, espionage, and harassment against political “enemies” of Nixon and the GOP.³⁶



Source: NY Daily News

³⁴ Frommer, Fred. “G. Gordon Liddy | Biography, Watergate, & Facts | Britannica.”

³⁵ Wallenfeldt, Jeff. “Richard Nixon - Watergate and Other Scandals.”

³⁶ Wallenfeldt, Jeff. “Richard Nixon - Watergate and Other Scandals.”

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In all, the establishment of the Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities in early 1973 marked a point in which Nixon and his cabinet began taking an incredibly aggressive defensive stance against the investigation into their activities, hiding what they could from the official probe and condemning anyone who stood in their way³⁷. Further, details of the scandal began to come more prominently into the public knowledge, which also included the shady dealings of top GOP officials and CREEP not only in the Watergate incident, but also for numerous years prior against the DNC and “political enemies.” Nixon went from winning the election in a landslide to a reputation in shambles in merely a few months³⁸. In all, the political career of Nixon displays a key theme in questionable and aggressive strategy against political opponents and adversaries.

Your research should consist of three main areas: information on your character, background to the activities conducted by the GOP and Nixon administration against political adversaries, and the real-life tactics employed by Nixon and his advisors to try to conceal and cover involvement. Though Nixon and his team were unsuccessful in their actual attempt to stay in power, perhaps you will find yourselves more successful learning from their mistakes. Further, knowledge of what Nixon and CREEP “may or may not” have been involved in will serve you well in your defense and preemptive moves. Keeping Nixon in power is paramount to maintaining GOP control of the government, as well as keeping your job (and possibly avoiding jail).

³⁷ Farnsworth, Malcolm. “Watergate Chronology.” Watergate.info, 2012, watergate.info/chronology.

³⁸ Wallenfeldt, Jeff. “Richard Nixon - Watergate and Other Scandals.”

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What is your character possibly implicated in in regards to the events being investigated? If you are innocent, what position does that possibly put you in compared to other implicated cabinet members?
 2. How can you defend Nixon while also protecting your interests? Keep in mind, you are out of a job if Nixon loses office and you will likely not work in politics again if you are associated with an impeached and/or jailed president.
 3. Which events have been leaked to the public? What information does the FBI have access to? What are some tactical strategies to employ to avoid looking guilty while also concealing evidence?
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