

Chapter 1 : What was Watergate? Here are 14 facts that explain everything

In the early morning of June 17, , five men are arrested for breaking into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate, an office-hotel-apartment complex in Washington, D.C.

Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy, who led the Watergate break-in team, were stationed in a Watergate Hotel room while the burglary was underway. A lookout was posted across the street at the Howard Johnson Hotel. During the break-in, Hunt and Liddy would remain in contact with each other and with the burglars by radio. According to Dean, this marked "the opening scene of the worst political scandal of the twentieth century and the beginning of the end of the Nixon presidency". Liddy was nominally in charge of the operation, but has since insisted that he was duped by both Dean and at least two of his subordinates, which included former CIA officers E. Baldwin III to carry out the wiretapping and monitor the telephone conversations afterward. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt , [22] McCord and his team of burglars prepared for their first Watergate break-in, [23] which began on May At the time, Oliver was working as the executive director of the Association of State Democratic Chairmen. He removed the tape, thinking nothing of it. When he returned a short time later and discovered that someone had retaped the locks, he called the police. Responding to the call was an unmarked car with three plainclothes officers working the overnight "bum squad" - dressed as hippies and on the lookout for drug deals and other street crimes. By the time Baldwin noticed unusual activity on the sixth floor and radioed the burglars, it was already too late. The burglars were tried by a jury, with Judge John Sirica officiating, and pled guilty or were convicted on January 30, Nixon administration officials were concerned because Hunt and Liddy were also involved in a separate secret activity known as the " White House Plumbers ", which was set up to stop security " leaks " and investigate other sensitive security matters. Ehrlichman subsequently denied this. Watergate prosecutor James Neal was sure that Nixon had not known in advance of the break-in. As evidence, he cited a conversation taped on June 23 between the President and his Chief of Staff, H. Haldeman , in which Nixon asked, "Who was the asshole that did? Nixon furthermore said, "I can say categorically that Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. March Learn how and when to remove this template message On June 19, , the press reported that one of the Watergate burglars was a Republican Party security aide. Those individuals were the Committee bookkeeper and its treasurer, Hugh Sloan. As a private organization, the committee followed normal business practice in allowing only duly authorized individuals to accept and endorse checks on behalf of the Committee. No financial institution could accept or process a check on behalf of the committee unless a duly authorized individual endorsed it. However, once Sloan had endorsed a check made payable to the Committee, he had a legal and fiduciary responsibility to see that the check was deposited only into the accounts named on the check. Sloan failed to do that. When confronted with the potential charge of federal bank fraud, he revealed that committee deputy director Jeb Magruder and finance director Maurice Stans had directed him to give the money to G. Liddy, in turn, gave the money to Barker, and attempted to hide its origin. Barker tried to disguise the funds by depositing them into accounts in banks outside of the United States. What Barker, Liddy, and Sloan did not know was that the complete record of all such transactions were held for roughly six months. All five Watergate burglars were directly or indirectly tied to the CRP, thus causing Judge Sirica to suspect a conspiracy involving higher-echelon government officials. On October 10, the FBI reported the Watergate break-in was part of a massive campaign of political spying and sabotage on behalf of the Nixon re-election committee. Role of the media The connection between the break-in and the re-election committee was highlighted by media coverageâ€”in particular, investigative coverage by The Washington Post , Time , and The New York Times. The coverage dramatically increased publicity and consequent political and legal repercussions. Relying heavily upon anonymous sources , Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncovered information suggesting that knowledge of the break-in, and attempts to cover it up, led deeply into the upper reaches of the Justice Department, FBI, CIA, and the White House. Woodward and Bernstein interviewed Judy Hoback Miller , the bookkeeper for Nixon, who revealed to them information about the

mishandling of funds and records being destroyed. Felt warned Woodward that the FBI wanted to know where he and other reporters were getting their information, as they were uncovering a wider web of crimes than the FBI first disclosed. All of the secret meetings between Woodward and Felt took place at an underground parking garage somewhere in Rosslyn over a period from June to January. During this early period, most of the media failed to grasp the full implications of the scandal, and concentrated reporting on other topics related to the presidential election. After the Post revealed that H. Time magazine described Nixon as undergoing "daily hell and very little trust. In , the White House requested an audit of the tax return of the editor of Newsday , after he wrote a series of articles about the financial dealings of Charles "Bebe" Rebozo , a friend of Nixon. Nixon created a new conspiracyâ€”to effect a cover-up of the cover-upâ€”which began in late March and became fully formed in May and June , operating until his presidency ended on August 9, Trying to make them talk, Sirica gave Hunt and two burglars provisional sentences of up to 40 years. On April 13, Magruder told U. Dean wanted to protect the president and have his four closest men take the fall for telling the truth. It was during this meeting that Dean felt that he was being recorded. Dean mentioned this observation while testifying to the Senate Committee on Watergate, exposing the thread of what were taped conversations that would unravel the fabric of the conspiracy. On that same day, U. They were later both indicted, convicted, and ultimately sentenced to prison. He asked for the resignation of Attorney General Kleindienst, to ensure no one could claim that his innocent friendship with Haldeman and Ehrlichman could be construed as a conflict. He fired White House Counsel John Dean, who went on to testify before the Senate Watergate Committee and said that he believed and suspected the conversations in the Oval Office were being taped. This information became the bombshell that helped force Richard Nixon to resign rather than be impeached. In one of the most difficult decisions of my Presidency, I accepted the resignations of two of my closest associates in the White House, Bob Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, two of the finest public servants it has been my privilege to know. Because Attorney General Kleindienst, though a distinguished public servant, my personal friend for 20 years, with no personal involvement whatsoever in this matter has been a close personal and professional associate of some of those who are involved in this case, he and I both felt that it was also necessary to name a new Attorney General. The Counsel to the President , John Dean, has also resigned. In May , Richardson named Archibald Cox to the position.

Chapter 2 : Watergate scandal - Wikipedia

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The nearest Metro station, 0. Site history[edit] For more than a century, the land now occupied by the Watergate complex belonged to the Gas Works of the Washington Gas Light Company , which produced " manufactured gas " a mixture of hydrogen, carbon monoxide, methane, and other flammable and nonflammable gases for heating, cooking, and lighting throughout the city. The photo shows the remains of Waste Weir 1, and where the gravity dam used to be. The "Watergate West" building is seen in the background. The name "Watergate" relates to numerous aspects of its physical and historical context. The remains of the gravity dam across Rock Creek, as well as Waste Weir 1 are at this site. According to Rodota, the earliest use of the name Watergate in the surviving files of Societa Generale Immobiliare is a June 8, memorandum authored by Giuseppe Cecchi, summarizing an early meeting with officials of the future John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts about the proposed project. Another namesake is the noted restaurant, the "Water Gate Inn" , that operated on the site before the Watergate complex was built. The music venue was depicted in scenes in the motion pictures Houseboat [14] and Born Yesterday Timchenko, a noted D. Among these were a hour receptionist, room service provided by the Watergate Hotel, health club, restaurants, shopping mall, medical and dental offices, grocery, pharmacy, post office, and liquor store. The first was the proposed Inner Loop Expressway , a curving freeway expected to be built just in front of the Watergate within the next decade. The approval process for the Watergate complex had five stages. The first stage considered the proposed project as a whole as well as the first proposed building. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. Kennedy on the issue, but it was not clear who made the decision to request the height reduction or who made the request public. The group Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State began a national letter-writing campaign opposing the project, alleging that the zoning waivers would not have been given had the Vatican not been a major investor in SGI. Commission on Fine Arts attempted once more to revise the project. In October , the USCFA alleged that the height of the Watergate complex, as measured from the parkway in front of it, would exceed the agreed-upon height restrictions. It contained residential units, more than any other building in the complex. Three separate proposals were made to both sides on December 7, When models of the Watergate were unveiled in , critics said the structure "would ruin the waterfront". Some residents even felt the construction of the units was substandard. In May , it editorialized: But in our opinion the result, which places a premium on public open space and garden-like surroundings, and which proposes a quality of housing that would rank with the finest in the city, would be a distinct asset. When the Watergate East opened in , The Washington Post called these areas opulent and evocative of the best in Italian design. The Kennedy Center is visible in the background. The entire Watergate complex was initially owned by Watergate Improvements, Inc. Wick , [90] [91] and Rose Mary Woods. So many members of the Nixon administration settled there that the Washington, D. In the Watergate South, for example, owners cannot rent their unit until a full year has passed, and no lease may last more than two years. It became the most sought-after living location in the city when it opened in The roof was leaking by In the weeks prior to the jury verdict in the trial of the Chicago Seven in Chicago , Illinois , political activists began planning and then advertising that a protest would occur at the home of United States Attorney General John N. Mitchell who lived in the Watergate East. That night, more than people rallied at D. The Watergate Hotel[edit] Management and ownership of the hotel have changed several times since the mids. In , Cunard Line , the cruise ship company, took over management of the hotel and began redecorating and refurbishing it. Among the improvements it wished to make were the addition of six outdoor "summer gardens" where liquor may be served. The plan would require the approval of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, which voted to protest the liquor licenses unless the company reached an agreement with all the tenant associations in the Watergate cooperative. Euro Capital also said it would seek a hotel management company to continue to operate the Watergate Hotel as an independent hotel. Construction on the new interior elements is planned to

start in March. The renovation now featured two new restaurants, upgraded ballrooms, and a new spa and fitness area. Watergate officials said the new rooftop bar will seat , and other internal structural changes will add nearly guest rooms. Grunley Construction will oversee all the renovations. The room hotel reopened in , nine years after it closed. The first break-in, however, shares a remarkable connection with the DNC burglary. The first break-in at the complex was the burglary of a residential unit in

Chapter 3 : Forty Years on, Watergate Crime Scene is Forgotten

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

Ware 0 President Richard Nixon waves goodbye before boarding Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House following his resignation on August 8, -- 26 months after the break-in at the Watergate complex began to envelop his presidency. Howard Hunt served time in prison for his role in the break-in. Supreme Court Warren Burger administers the oath. File Photo by Alexis C. Just after midnight on June 17, , five burglars were caught red-handed by plainclothes D. When they were arrested, the middle-aged, suit-clad bandits held sophisticated communications and surveillance electronics, as well as large amounts of cash. Although virtually no one knew it at the time, the seemingly small-time burglary started a ticking time bomb that ultimately exploded the presidency of Richard M. The goal was to eavesdrop on the Democrats and collect information that could be used against the party for political purposes. Police were alerted to the break-in by Watergate security guard Frank Wills, who twice noticed that a lock on one of the doors at the complex had been taped open. Two plainclothes officers in the vicinity responded to the call and, after spending several terse minutes searching the suite, busted the burglars crouching in one of the offices. It scared the living bejesus out of me. I screamed something to the effect of, "Come out with your hands up or I will blow your head off. The first inkling of a possible connection to the Nixon White House was only recognized later at their initial court appearance, and in a mysterious entry -- denoting "H. Newspaper editorials turn against Nixon The Cover-Up What followed the break-in was a slow trickle of information about who the burglars were, what they were doing at the DNC and if there was any connection to the government. In short order, Woodward and Bernstein learned that he was E. By the time they had blown the story open, every news outlet in the country was latched onto the story. Mark Felt -- exposed a long and winding road that was littered with crime, corruption and concealment. Nixon resigns; Ford to take oath It was later learned that Hunt and G. Sirica, who presided over the trial of the burglars, had read the stories, and no fool," ABC News reporter Sam Donaldson, who covered the Watergate investigation, recalled of the times. The End A year after the break-in, President Nixon had settled firmly into the sights of Senate investigators looking to get to the bottom of the Watergate scandal. A special Senate committee began to hold hearings in May that were broadcast nationally, and quickly became a media sensation. The Senate panel called a number of witnesses to testify -- including top administration aides like senior advisers H. Perhaps the most surprising revelation that emerged from the hearings was the acknowledgement of listening devices and a taping system in the Oval Office, which were confirmed by Butterfield in his appearance before the committee. The existence of such a taping system set off a protracted legal battle between federal courts and the president. After losing his fight to keep the tapes private, Nixon eventually handed them over to special investigators who discovered an 18 and-a-half minute gap on one of the tapes, which audio experts later said had been deliberately erased. To this day, no one knows what was erased, but most believe it was some type of incriminating evidence spoken by someone in the Oval Office -- mainly because it occurred at a portion of the tape where the Watergate investigation was being discussed. Months later, Nixon brought even more trouble upon himself when he ordered the firing of special Watergate investigator Archibald Cox -- presumably to get the heat off him. At this point, public opinion began to turn sharply against Nixon. Another tape revealed a conversation between Nixon and Dean in which the adviser warned of a growing "cancer on the presidency. Still Scandalous After 45 Years Several reunions or events are scheduled Saturday to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Watergate break-in. New Nixon tapes said more damaging The Watergate Hotel is even commemorating the anniversary by announcing plans to turn one of its guest rooms into an exhibit -- Scandal Room , where Liddy and Hunt staged themselves on the night of the break-in. What happens when a president gets frustrated? What can happen is abuse of power.

Chapter 4 : Watergate complex - Wikipedia

The Watergate scandal was a major political scandal that occurred in the United States during the early s, following a break-in by five men at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C. on June 17, , and President Richard Nixon's administration's subsequent attempt to cover.

Blog Watergate Scandal Before the summer of , the word "Watergate" meant nothing more than an office and luxurious apartment complex in Washington, D. As a result of a "third-rate burglary" on June 17 of that year, it came to be associated with the greatest political scandal of that century and would change the lives of the many people involved — especially President Richard M. While doing his rounds at the Watergate Hotel in the early morning of June 17, , security guard Frank Wills found a door, located between the basement stairwell and the parking garage, that was being prevented from latching by a piece of tape. He removed the tape and continued his rounds. Returning to the same spot later, he discovered that someone had re-taped the door. His curiosity now aroused, he called the police. The men had been repairing wiretapping equipment and, according to some, taking pictures of documentation. Another of the arrested men identified his occupation as "anti-communist. Another link to the White House came to light when the phone number for E. It later appeared that Hunt and G. Their most famous mission was the break-in at the home of former Pentagon employee Daniel Ellsberg , where they unsuccessfully attempted to prevent further leaks of confidential information, the Pentagon Papers. Almost immediately, a cover-up was undertaken by persons associated with the president and his campaign. Jeb Magruder and others destroyed documents and lied to investigators. The acting director of the FBI , L. Nixon argued that the investigation might interfere with a CIA operation. Dean and others later tried to get the CIA to go along with the plan. He cited "personal reasons. Woodward and Bernstein received information from someone with inside knowledge of the White House, a source known as "Deep Throat. Although the Post continued to investigate, little more came to light during the balance of the campaign. On August 19, Nixon declared that no one then employed in his administration was involved in Watergate. On September 15, indictments were handed down on the five men arrested on June 26, plus Liddy and Hunt. Information obtained from the Democratic National Committee offices was allegedly used to aid Nixon in his re-election campaign. District Court in Washington, D. Five pleaded guilty, and McCord and Liddy were convicted of conspiracy, burglary, and illegal wiretapping. Meanwhile, suspicions grew that the break-in was part of a broad program of political espionage. Senate voted to conduct an investigation. The grand jury continued to hear witnesses. His testimony suggested that other top White House aides were involved in clandestine activities. On March 21, Dean wrote to Nixon and warned him that Watergate had become a "cancer growing on the presidency. Hoping to avoid a severe sentence, McCord cooperated with investigators and implicated Dean and Magruder in the break-in. Investigators were told that Mitchell had approved the break-in, that transcripts of conversations taped at the DNC were given to aide Gordon C. Strachan for delivery to Haldeman, and that Ehrlichman had ordered the destruction of documents. Attorney General Richard Kleindienst resigned rather than prosecute men he knew. In the end, 40 government officials were indicted. Haldeman, Ehrlichman, and Mitchell denied wrongdoing and defended the president. On July 16, , Alexander Butterfield, a former White House official, testified to the Ervin Committee that Nixon had taped his own conversations in the White House for a period of time that included the alleged Watergate cover-up. Cox subpoenaed a number of tapes that he felt were essential to the investigation. Nixon refused to release them. Judge Sirica directed Nixon to let him hear the tapes. Nixon appealed the order, arguing that a president was immune from judicial orders enforcing subpoenas and that under the concept of executive privilege only he could decide which communications could be disclosed. Court of Appeals upheld Sirica, Nixon countered with a suggestion that Senator John Stennis of Mississippi listen to the tapes and verify an edited version that Nixon would submit to the grand jury and to the Senate committee. Nixon told Attorney General Richardson to fire Cox. Richardson, having assured Congress that the prosecutor would be free to pursue the investigation, resigned instead. The actions of October 20, which became known as the "Saturday Night Massacre," launched the first serious moves to impeach Nixon. Nixon at last agreed to give the tapes to

Sirica, and he appointed Leon Jaworski, a Texas attorney, to succeed Cox. Nixon guaranteed that Jaworski would be free of White House control. However, problems with the tapes got worse. According to the White House, two subpoenaed conversations had never been taped and another contained an minute gap. Six court-appointed electronics experts said that at least five separate erasures had caused the gap. Suspicions grew that evidence had been deliberately destroyed. Evidence against Nixon, given to Judge Sirica by the grand jury, was turned over to the House Judiciary Committee, which had begun its impeachment investigation. The committee subpoenaed 42 more tapes in April. On April 30, Nixon released edited transcripts but not the actual recordings of 46 conversations. Legal experts disagreed on whether the transcripts established that Nixon was a part of the conspiracy. Meanwhile, Jaworski asked Sirica to subpoena 64 tapes and documents. Nixon refused the subpoena, claiming executive privilege, and Jaworski took the issue to the U. S. Supreme Court. In *United States v. Nixon*, the Court ruled that Nixon must comply with the subpoena. In June 1974, Sirica learned that one of the 64 tapes was made on the June 23, 1972, conversation with Haldeman in which Nixon sought to thwart the FBI investigation, he insisted that Nixon publish it. Nixon did so on August 5, 1974. Having opened its impeachment hearings on May 9, the House committee had already considered five possible articles of impeachment and over a period of several days in late July, approved three of them. Barbara Jordan discussed the ramifications of the impeachment process: It is wrong, I suggest, it is a misreading of the Constitution for any member here to assert that for a member to vote for an article of impeachment means that that member must be convinced that the President should be removed from office. The powers relating to impeachment are an essential check in the hands of the body of the legislature against and upon the encroachments of the executive. The division between the two branches of the legislature, the House and the Senate, assigning to the one the right to accuse and to the other the right to judge, the framers of this Constitution were very astute. They did not make the accusers and the judges -- and the judges the same person. Facing certain impeachment and removal from office, Nixon resigned on August 8 in a nationally televised address, effective at noon August 9. During the address from the Oval Office, he said, "By taking this action, I hope that I will have hastened the start of the process of healing which is so desperately needed in America. Nixon had been named an unindicted co-conspirator, and Dean and Magruder, along with lesser figures in the scandal, had already pleaded guilty. Colson later pleaded guilty to charges concerning the Ellsberg case and cover-up charges against him were dropped as were all charges against Strachan. The remaining five went on trial in October, and on January 1, 1975, all but Parkinson were found guilty. In 1975, a court of appeals ordered a new trial for Mardian, and eventually all charges against him were dropped. Ehrlichman went to prison in 1975, Mitchell and Haldeman in 1977. Mark Felt, the No. 1 spy, was found guilty in 1978. If Nixon gets away with that, then Nixon makes the law as he goes along -- not the Congress nor the courts. The old Court you and I served so long will not be worthy of its traditions if Nixon can twist, turn and fashion the law as he sees fit. Conversation with William O. Douglas. Never again must America allow an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents to by-pass the regular party organization and dictate the terms of a national election. This landmark book details all the events of the biggest political scandal in the history of this nation--Watergate. Woodward and Bernstein kept the h

Chapter 5 : Watergate: Crime in the Suites: Michael Myerson: calendrierdelascience.com: Books

Printing. good. 18 cm, , wraps, covers soiled In this radical view of Watergate, the author asserts that the ultimate purpose of Watergate was to silence the popular protest movements against government policies that began during the 's.

Visit Website Did you know? Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein deserve a great deal of the credit for uncovering the details of the Watergate scandal. Mark Felt, a former associate director of the FBI. Visit Website The wiretaps failed to work properly, however, so on June 17 a group of five men returned to the Watergate building. The guard called the police, who arrived just in time to catch the spies red-handed. In August, Nixon gave a speech in which he swore that his White House staff was not involved in the break-in. Most voters believed him, and in November the president was reelected in a landslide victory. This was a more serious crime than the break-in: It was an abuse of presidential power and a deliberate obstruction of justice. Meanwhile, seven conspirators were indicted on charges related to the Watergate affair. Sirica and members of a Senate investigating committeeâ€”had begun to suspect that there was a larger scheme afoot. At the same time, some of the conspirators began to crack under the pressure of the cover-up. Nixon struggled to protect the tapes during the summer and fall of The Saturday Night Massacre When Cox refused to stop demanding the tapes, Nixon ordered that he be fired, leading several Justice Department officials to resign in protest. These events, which took place on October 20, , are known as the Saturday Night Massacre. Eventually, Nixon agreed to surrender someâ€”but not allâ€”of the tapes. Early in , the cover-up and efforts to impede the Watergate investigation began to unravel. While the president dragged his feet, the House of Representatives voted to impeach Nixon for obstruction of justice, abuse of power, criminal cover-up and several violations of the Constitution. Nixon Resigns Finally, on August 5, Nixon released the tapes, which provided undeniable evidence of his complicity in the Watergate crimes. In the face of almost certain impeachment by Congress, Nixon resigned in disgrace on August 8, and left office the following day. Six weeks later, after Vice President Gerald Ford was sworn in as president, he pardoned Nixon for any crimes he had committed while in office. They were convicted of very serious offenses and sent to federal prison. Nixon himself never admitted to any criminal wrongdoing, though he did acknowledge using poor judgment. His abuse of presidential power had a long-lasting effect on American political life, creating an atmosphere of cynicism and distrust. While many Americans had been deeply dismayed by the outcome of the Vietnam War, and saddened by the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy , Martin Luther King and other leaders, Watergate added further disappointment to a national climate already soured by the difficulties and losses of the previous decade.

Chapter 6 : Watergate burglars arrested - HISTORY

These days, though, there's little marking the location of the crime that ultimately led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. The office building that was the site of the break-in.

Ehrlichman ; and Attorney General Richard Kleindienst. Nixon protested his own innocence and promised cooperation with future investigations even while including legalistic language that implied strong limits to that cooperation. The Ervin hearings By the time the Ervin hearings began on May 17, a new tenor for American political life had been set: It would not let up for the next 15 months. The daily televised hearings were quite possibly comparable in drama, import, and historic depth to the Constitutional Convention of , the Lincoln-Douglas debates of , and the Paris Peace Conference of " Presided over by four Democrats led by Chairman Ervin"who became a folk hero and to some a folk villain "and three Republicans led by Vice Chairman Howard Baker of Tennessee, the hearings were at first covered gavel-to-gavel on all three commercial television networks"a business sacrifice that spoke to the remarkable civic high-mindedness with which the country approached the Watergate inquiry. Soon the networks began showing the hearings on a rotating basis. Some Public Broadcasting Service PBS stations, however, continued to broadcast the hearings live daily, other PBS stations reran telecasts of the hearings at night, while still others did both. Ervin discussing the underlying issues at play in the unfolding of the Watergate scandal. Housewives threatened not to do a stitch of housework for as long as the hearings lasted. College students gathered around TV sets in corridors between, and sometimes during, classes; high schools set up TVs in the cafeteria for all-day civics lessons. Sticklers, including independent prosecutor Archibald Cox , decried the unfairness of what he characterized as trying the principals in the media. Game-show and soap-opera fans complained about the preemption of their favourite programs. Most significantly for the later ideological direction of the country, though hardly noticed by elites at the time, large portions of Americans derided the entire business as a political witch hunt and would continue to so view it into the 21st century. Still, some 35 million or so Americans watched the Ervin hearings at one time or another. What did they see? Methodical portraiture of a White House riddled with unprecedented and extra-constitutional paranoia and corruption from the beginning, painted by a bipartisan panel backed by the awesomely thorough staff work of some of the best young legal minds in Washington among them Hillary Rodham Clinton , who worked for the House Judiciary Committee during the impeachment hearings. In the spring of , national security adviser Henry Kissinger had wiretapped his staffers. In the White House set up an illegal money-laundering operation to fund its favoured Senate candidates. In , after the disillusioned military analyst Daniel Ellsberg leaked the Pentagon Papers , the White House seemed to institutionalize what some have characterized as a culture of illegality. One young staffer named Tom Charles Huston had earlier recommended a plan, approved and then withdrawn by the president, that called for dramatically expanded illegal domestic spying activities by the CIA, FBI, and other intelligence agencies. Richard Nixon, during the Senate Watergate hearings. Stock footage courtesy The WPA Film Library It was revealed that, as the campaign season rolled around, roving cells of saboteurs devised ways to weaken individual Democratic presidential campaigns while making it look like the campaigns were actually sabotaging each other. Another continuing thread was the examination of illegal sources of the money that funded the various clandestine operations. The operative constitutional question tying the complexity together was framed with special eloquence by Vice Chairman Baker: That contention was thrown melodramatically into doubt by Dean on June 25, , in a nearly seven-hour statement to the Ervin committee, watched by a huge portion of the American television audience, followed by five days of intense cross-examination. However, these revelations were greeted with skepticism by many. Both Cox and the Ervin committee promptly subpoenaed the tapes of several key conversations. Nixon refused to provide them on the grounds of executive privilege and national security. When Judge Sirica ordered Nixon to turn over the tapes and that order was upheld by the U. Court of Appeals in October, Nixon offered instead to provide written summaries of the tapes in question in return for an agreement that no further presidential documents would be sought. Cox rejected the proposal, and on October 20 the president ordered Attorney General Elliot Richardson to fire the special

prosecutor. Ruckelshaus, the deputy attorney general, resigned rather than carry out the order, and Cox was finally dismissed by a compliant solicitor general, Robert Bork. It was another extraordinary historical moment. Nixon, announcing his resignation from the presidency, August 8, The combined weight of all the allegations that had been made during the course of the investigation of the scandal led to the initiation of a formal impeachment inquiry by the House Judiciary Committee in May On July 24 the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Nixon must provide the recordings. Between July 27 and 30 the House Judiciary Committee passed three articles of impeachment. On August 5 the president supplied transcripts of three tapes that clearly implicated him in the cover-up. Nixon left office at noon the following day, August 9. Public Domain Nixon, Richard: Agnew , resigned amid accusations of financial improprieties and pled no contest to a single, negotiated criminal charge. Ford being sworn in as U. For the rest of the decade both popular and political culture were suffused with paranoia and disillusionment. Even in the early 21st century the legacy of Watergate continued to haunt American politics. That effort failed, and the entire taped record of the Nixon White House eventually became available to the public. Scholars continue to mine the tapes for insights, including the discovery that Nixon ordered the firebombing of the Washington, D. Hubert Humphrey , could not run on a record of having helped end the Vietnam War.

Chapter 7 : 40 years on, Watergate crime scene is forgotten | Politics | Dallas News

The hotel's owners eventually capitalized on the room's fame, installing a brass plaque declaring the space "The Watergate Room" in Inside, they hung framed reproductions of newspapers from that era and stocked the room with Watergate videos and books.

Wills, who died in , said he removed the tape and continued his rounds. But when he came back around a little later, Wills noticed the door was taped again, preventing it from locking. James McCord was the one who had placed the tape on the basement door, and tape was also placed on stairwell doors on the eighth and sixth floors of the building, the latter being the offices of the Democratic National Committee headquarters. The break-in was part of Operation Gemstone, a series of secret political tactics orchestrated by G. It was almost 2 a. He called the police and reported a burglary. Metro police officers John Barrett and Paul Leeper, who are now retired but worked in a plain clothes unit, responded to the call in an unmarked car without sirens. When they arrived at the complex, Barrett and Leeper went up to the guard station where Wills was sitting and Barrett said he showed his police badge. As Leeper and Barrett worked their way up through the building, they soon found the doors with tape on them. Leeper said he kicked the door to the DNC offices open and Barrett pulled out his revolver. The only problem was, when the officers burst into the DNC offices, Baldwin was preoccupied. He radioed to Liddy and asked if McCord and the other men were dressed in business suits or casual clothing. But by the time Baldwin notified Liddy, Barrett said it was too late. Bettmann Archive A Mug shot of Frank Sturgis, one of the five who were identified by police as part of the break-in to the Democratic National Headquarters. But this was not a typical burglary. According to the police report, the five burglars gave Leeper and Barrett false names and refused to give their ages the night they were arrested. The suspects had also used false names to book Rooms and at the Watergate Hotel to use as a base for the break-in. Barker, Sturgis, Gonzalez and Martinez all pleaded guilty to charges involving conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping on Jan. All served more than one year in prison and went on to live in Miami. Sturgis died in and Barker died in , both of lung cancer. AP Photo James W. Liddy and McCord were convicted on charges of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping on Jan. Liddy served 52 months in federal prison until President Carter commuted his sentence in After being sentenced to one to five years in prison, McCord only served four months after Judge John J. Sirica, who handled the Watergate case, reduced his sentence after he admitted the existence of a cover-up by officials high up in the White House. Fact and Fiction," and went on to live in Pennsylvania.

Forty-five years after the famous Watergate break-in, the (in)famous Washington, D.C. hotel is paying homage to its most scandalous room. On June 17, , E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy.

Tags What was Watergate? Here are 14 facts that explain everything Deep Throat, Woodward and Bernstein, Saturday Night Massacre – just some phrases associated with the biggest political scandal in history. The Watergate scandal is widely considered to be the biggest in political history anywhere in the world but trying to explain it is not easy. There are many names, many dates and many events. He was vice president to Dwight D Eisenhower for eight years until when he himself ran for election against John F Kennedy, the youthful and idealistic Democrat, who he lost to in one of the closest elections in US history. Nixon was deeply hurt by this, blaming the media for favouring his opponent and he long resented the success of the Kennedy clan, a resentment which lasted all the way to the White House which he was elected to in From the beginning of his presidency Nixon sought to undermine anyone who he considered an enemy. This was a group set up within the White House and tasked with stopping the leak of classified information to the media. The Watergate break-in As part of these illegal activities, in the early hours of 17 June , five men attempted to break-in to the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate complex, about a mile from the White House. When a security guard discovered tape on a door latch outside the DNC HQ he called the police and the five men were arrested. Once this link was established, and leaked to the media, the uncovering of the true extent of the scandal began. Six weeks after the break-in, he had told his chief of staff Bob Haldeman of the burglars and their leaders: Their work mainly involved following the money trail which broadly led from the burglars back to CREEP which had a slush fund to pay for the all the illegal activities that were going in. Their stories were continually criticised and denied by the White House and its press secretary Ronald Ziegler who later had to apologise to the men when it transpired that all of what they wrote was true. Bernstein and Woodward in the Washington Post newsroom in May 7. The source was, in journalistic parlance, on deep background which meant he could not even be quoted anonymously. Woodward explains their relationship in this clip: By early , cracks began to appear in the cover-up of Watergate when FBI director Patrick Gray testified at hearings intended to confirm him as permanent director of the FBI that he had been asked to keep the White House abreast of the Watergate investigation on a daily basis. Soon afterwards one of the Watergate burglars, James McCord, wrote to Judge John Sirica claiming that he had perjured himself in testimony by lying about the nature of the burglary saying it had been a CIA operation when in fact it involved other government officials. Soon after Dean began co-operating with Watergate prosecutors and Gray resigned as head of the FBI after it emerged he had destroyed files connected to the scandal. John Dean gave a page prepared statement to the Senate Watergate Committee in June , lasting a total of seven hours. Saturday Night Massacre The battle over the release of the tapes continued as the special prosecutor, Cox, refused to drop the subpoena. Later Nixon famously went in front of the media and the world at a press conference from Disney World in Florida to declare that he is not a crook: But the battle over the tapes continued and went all the way to the US Supreme Court where, with the exception of the recused Justice William Rehnquist whom Nixon had appointed , there was a unanimous ruling that they should be released. It then emerged that there had been an minute section of the tapes erased. Resignation The game was up. Facing certain impeachment after being told by Republican senators that they would vote in favour of such a motion, Nixon decided to resign, saying that the scandal over Watergate would prevent him from carrying out his duties: I have never been a quitter. To leave office before my term is completed is abhorrent to every instinct in my body. But as President, I must put the interest of America first. America needs a full-time President and a full-time Congress, particularly at this time with problems we face at home and abroad. Before entering the helicopter he gave a famous v-sign salute which had become one of his best known trademarks while in office: Impeachment proceedings against Nixon had already been dropped following his resignation. Famously he did a high-profile television interview with the British broadcaster David Frost in After 40 years it continues to resonate in modern day politics and acts as a warning to anyone in public life of the dangers of being too driven by power to not notice the moral,

ethical and legal implications of what you are doing.

Chapter 9 : What was the crime in the Watergate Scandal

The Watergate complex is a group of six buildings in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of Washington, D.C., in the United States, known particularly for the infamous burglary of the offices of the Democratic National Committee and the resulting Watergate scandal, which ultimately led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

What was the Watergate scandal? The Watergate Scandal or just "Watergate" was an American political scandal and constitutional crisis that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. The hotel was the location of the Democratic Party National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. A security guard caught a handful of burglars breaking into the Democratic Party Headquarters. Some of the burglars had ties to people in the Nixon administration, and President Nixon tried to minimize the damage to his administration. Ultimately, the congressional investigations uncovered numerous unethical and illegal activities by people very close to the president. Though Nixon had endured two years of mounting political embarrassments, the court-ordered release of the "smoking gun tape" in August brought with it the prospect of certain impeachment for Nixon, and he resigned only four days later on August 9. Today, any public scandal, real or exaggerated, can be identified as such simply by attaching the suffix -gate to the word. Nanny-gate, Iran-contra-gate, and Travel-gate are examples. For this Nixon would have been impeached he would have been tried and, when found guilty, fired from his job as president. To prevent being impeached, Nixon resigned. Watergate is a hotel in Washington DC. Men from the Committee to Reelect Nixon broke into and burgled the Democratic offices and were caught. This burglary is called the Watergate break-in. The resignation of a president is a major event in American history. Why was the Watergate scandal controversial? No branch, or elected official, or government worker is above the law. It turned out that the arrest of five men on 17 June who were trying to install electronic listening devices in the Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, DC was just one of several surreptitious activities sponsored by the Nixon Administration. They seemed to believe they were above the law. Nixon even went so far as to claim that if something was done by the president, that means it was not illegal. The public began to distrust the power that had been amassed in the office of the Executive. The separation of powers did not seem to be working as designed by the Founding Fathers. Others saw the resignation of the president as confirmation that the Constitution was working, and even the President was not above the law. The Watergate Affair also served as a civics lesson to the public. Many began to pay close attention to their representatives and to begin to question the leaders in Washington and in local and state offices. An immediate effect was a closer examination of the activities of the executive office by the legislative and judicial branches. What was the end of the Watergate scandal? The end of the Watergate scandal was when the Supreme Court asked for, "the tapes," which had an incriminating content. However, the President refused to give them up. The House of Representatives then voted three days later to impeach President Nixon. He resigned and Gerald Ford took over the presidency. Nixon was the only "Watergate conspirator" to not serve any jail time. Also, he was the only president in the history of the United States to resign from the presidency. How was Nixon involved in the Watergate scandal? The revelation of the White House system for taping conversations uncovered a "smoking gun". One of the tapes confirmed that the President himself had knowledge of the cover-up and actively worked to keep it hidden.