

Deep Throat, and his Motives

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BACKGROUND

- 1972 Watergate Scandal
 - Nixon planted listening devices in the DNC headquarters
- Reporters Bob Woodard and Carl Bernstein kept the anonymity of a source while reporting on the scandal
- This scandal forced Richard Nixon to resign in 1974



THE STORY BECAME MASSIVE

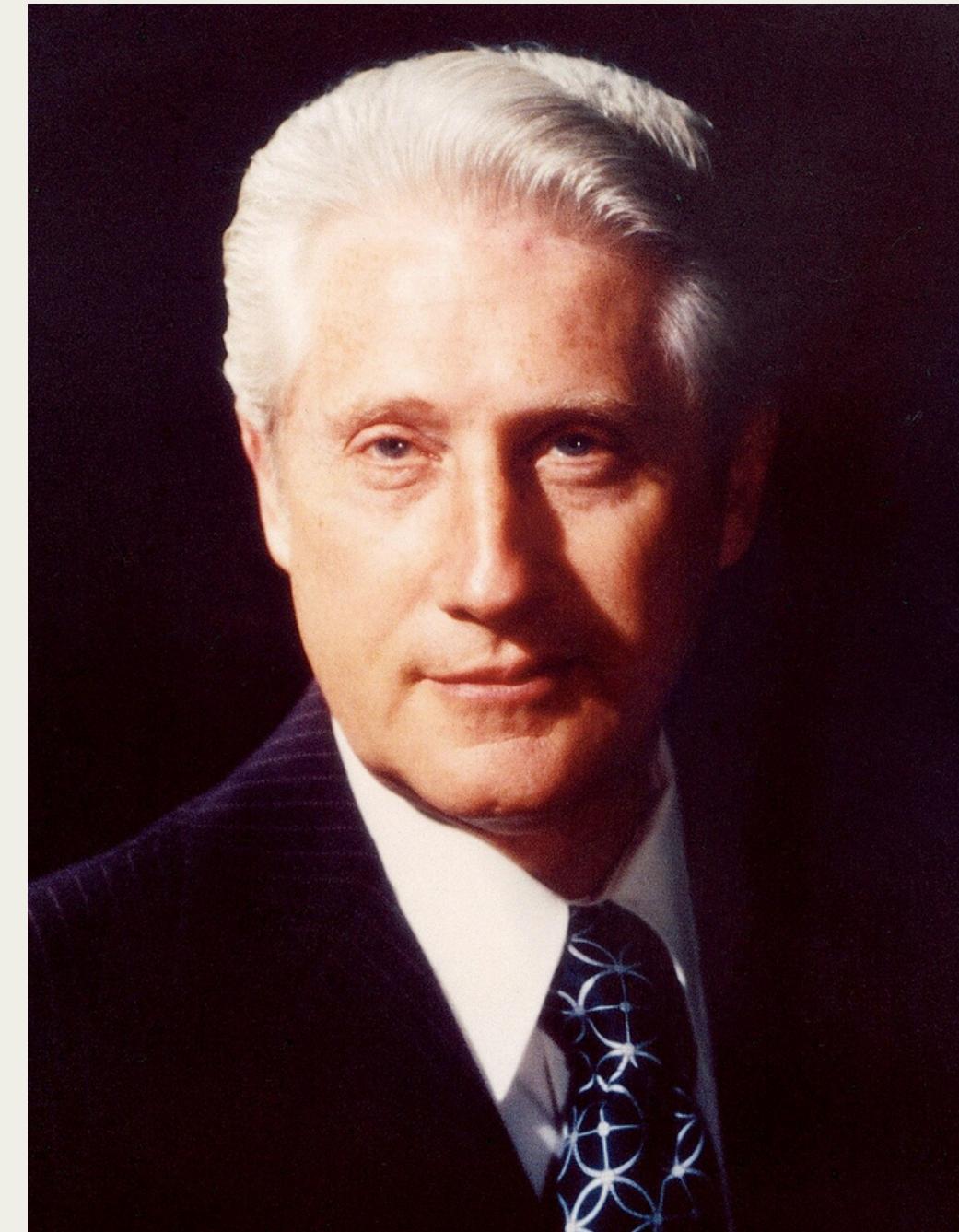
All The President's Men

- Woodard and Bernstein won Pulitzers
- This story inspired a whole generation of journalists
- They were memorialized in a movie
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DC3YFyah_Yg



CONTROVERSY

- In 2005 “Deep Throat” revealed himself more than thirty years after the scandal
- His name was Mark Felt, an Associate Director of the FBI



“This was not a lone whistle-blower being protected by a courageous news organization; rather, it was a news organization being used by the FBI against the president, and a news organization that knew perfectly well that it was being used against the president. Protecting Deep Throat concealed not only an individual, but also the story of the FBI’s role in destroying Nixon.” - George Friedman

TWO PRINCIPLES OF JOURNALISM AT CONFLICT

Always Protect your sources

- The American people need to know about this story
- If they didn't keep his name a secret they would not have gotten the story



Giving the full truth to your readers

- This is a powerful political agency feeding you information about the president
- They were able to manipulate the journalist and get the president to resign

CONCLUSION

Is it journalistically acceptable to anonymously take information from a source that has a massive personal stake in the results of the story?

Thank you!
