

In Search of Deep Throat - The Greatest Mystery of Our Time

Leonard Garment, Basic Books, Copyright 2000, ISBN 0-465-02613-3

Book Review by Roman Brackman

In his book *In Search of Deep Throat-The Greatest Mystery of Our Time* Leonard Garment, the former Counsel to the President in the Nixon White House, reminds his readers the basic facts of the Watergate scandal of more than half a century ago. It started on June 17, 1972, when five Cuban-American veterans of the Bay of Pigs fiasco were arrested for breaking in the offices of Democratic National Committee in the Watergate complex in Washington D.C. Two *Washington Post* reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, learned that the burglars had intended to install tape-recording equipment on telephones used by the democrats whom they suspected of ties with Fidel Castro's agents and, perhaps, to learn about other embarrassing activities. It was soon revealed that the burglars had connection to the Nixon Reelection Committee. In the 1972 election Nixon run against the anti-Vietnam War democratic candidate George McGovern. In November 1972 Nixon won in the greatest landslide in history. The Watergate break-in was barely mentioned by the Media during the election campaign, but soon thereafter Woodward and Bernstein, encouraged by their superiors at *The Washington Post*, began to highlight the Watergate break-in, spicing it with sensational revelations by what they described as their "very, very deep source" in the Nixon's White House. Howard Simmons, Managing Editor at *The Washington Post*, jokingly suggested the code name "Deep Throat" to this "deep source" after then "notorious pornographic movie of the same title."¹ This code name stuck. Deep Throat's revelations implicated President Nixon and eventually led to his resignation. Careers of the two "investigative reporters," Woodward and Bernstein, skyrocketed into countless articles, books and movies. The widely publicized congressional testimony of the Watergate "star witness" John Dean, who was Counsel in the President in the Nixon's White House, also played a major role in the destruction of Nixon presidency. *The New York Times* headline "Nixon Can Not Survive Dean" pretty much summed up John Dean's role in President Nixon downfall.

Nixon appointed Leonard Garment to the position of Counsel to the President after firing John Dean. Leonard Garment in his book takes the reader on a 280 pages tiring tour of his tortured reasoning of why he selected and then discarded several dozens candidates for the role of Deep

Throat. Francis X. Clines in his review of Garment's book in *The New York Times* wrote that Garment "after years of amateur sleuthing without whisper or flinch identified John Sears to be Deep Throat." John Sears, a prominent adviser to Nixon and Reagan election campaigns, called Garment's accusation an "absolute nonsense" and threatened to take a lie detector test and to sue Garment.ⁱⁱ Woodward and Bernstein also denied that John Sears was Deep Throat. Garment stated that Benjamin Bradlee, *The Washington Post's* Editor-in-Chief, predicted that when Deep Throat was finally identified, everyone would say, "Why didn't I think of that?" Garment added, "Which is precisely what I said to myself when I finally figured it out."ⁱⁱⁱ Stephen Holden also figured it out. In his review in *The New York Times* of the fantasy film "Dick" he wrote: "Thanks to 'Dick,' at last we know the identity of Deep Throat who turned out to have been two giggly 15-year-old girls - baby Monicas [Lewinsky] if you will."

Larry King in his June 1997 interview with Woodward and Bernstein asked them whom they were hiding behind Deep Throat. They refused to reveal who Deep Throat was, saying, "the man is still alive" and they had an "obligation to protect our source." Benjamin Bradlee in the same interview with Larry King said that Woodward and Bernstein had told him at the time of the Watergate scandal who Deep Throat was, but he too did not want to reveal his identity. General Al Haig, the White House Chief of Staff during the last days of Nixon Administration, in the same interview with Larry King, said that he, after "substantial research," had come to the conclusion that "Deep Throat was some high CIA official." Over the years many officials have been mentioned as candidates for Deep Throat role, among them: Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; CIA Director Richard Helms; Attorney General Richard Kleindienst; FBI Acting Director Patrick Grey, White House lawyer Fred Fielding and others. Clairvoyant Jeanne Dixon said that she had had a hazy vision in which Deep Throat appeared as a "woman . . . her eyes were light -- perhaps blue, gray or green . . ." Dixon added: "I did not recognize her, so she was probably a person who worked behind the scene in the Nixon White House. Sometimes her voice is almost audible - like the wind in the far end of a long tunnel. But where she is now and what she is doing I do not know. I do know that the day will come when she will be unveiled for all the world to see." This day will hopefully come soon.

The obvious question is: Why the identity of Deep Throat remained secret for more than quarter of the century while most secrets in Washington do not survive even for a split second? The other question is: What is the nature of the resistance to the insight into the identity of Deep Throat? Leonard Garment in his op-ed article Justice Is Not the Issue in *The New York Times* provided a clue,

stating: "Watergate grew out of a dispute about Richard Nixon and his prosecution of the Vietnam War. This dispute was, in political terms, virtually irresolvable."^{iv} Garment failed to remind his readers that this "dispute" was resolved by the forced resignation of Richard Nixon and by the democrat dominated Congress passing the War Power Act that tied up President Ford's hands, allowed the North Vietnamese communists to discard with impunity the Paris Peace Agreement, negotiated by Nixon and Kissinger, thus effectively legislating American defeat in the Vietnam War. Millions of South Vietnamese fled their communist "liberators" while hundreds of thousands "boat people" perished on high seas in quest for freedom. The communist Khmer Ruche slaughtered two million Cambodians. America remained submerged in "Vietnam syndrome" until President Ronald Reagan lifted her spirit.

The Watergate scandal was not about the break-in. Nixon was not even accused of ordering it. The scandal was not even about the cover-up of which he was accused. It was about invalidation of Nixon's 1972 landslide victory. This was a calamity which cries out for exposure of the identity of Deep Throat and for a close look at the Watergate "star witness" John Dean, the only witness to testify against Nixon. If John Dean and Deep Throat were one and the same person then hiding the identity of Deep Throat amounts to a conspiracy of silence intended to cover up a deception: making use of John Dean to subvert public opinion and change the course of history. Resistance to insight into Deep Throat identity suggests that many people, having accepted Dean's version of Nixon's "high crimes and misdemeanors," do not want to admit even to themselves that they have been duped.

Press reports help to decipher John Dean's personality. Dean said that when he was five or six years old, he set a fire in the backyard of his parents' home. He initially denied his guilt and a Fire Marshall was called. "He must have been ten feet tall, wearing a big blue uniform," said Dean. "I can see him to this day. He said to me: 'Now John, you haven't told your father the truth.' The impact of the blue uniform as the authority of the law was enormous. I said to myself: 'The jig is up.'" Dean has been "setting fire in the backyards" ever since, denying his guilt and with increasing sophistication blaming and implicating others, while refusing to become a "scapegoat." Dean was remembered by his associates as a "man in a hurry -- very eager to please the boss." He confused the boss's motives for his own, and when rebuffed, would at first display amazement and indignation. Then Dean would turn against "the boss," plotting against him as he previously plotted for him on mistaken assumptions. Those assumptions always turned out to be wrong. He married wealthy Karla

Hennings, a daughter of a Missouri senator. Dean "assumed" that her money was his and misrepresented it in a business deal he hastily concocted. He worked for the law firm of Welch and Morgan, and, after six months, was fired for secretly plotting to aid a competitor in a case the firm was handling. Then he asked this law firm to change in writing the real reason for his firing.

Rewriting history is very typical of Dean. He exhibited this trait in his Deep Throat leaks and during his testimony at the Senate hearings. He felt no qualms "borrowing" election campaign money for his second honeymoon without consulting anybody. He prompted Patrick Grey to destroy some documents and then implicated not only Grey, but also Ehrlichman in this act. He had his own code phrase "deep-six" for destruction of evidence. Dean was unable to distinguish between what was appropriate and what was not, as he was unable to distinguish between truth and lie, between reality and his distorted version of it. This is known as "moral blindness." He titled his book Blind Ambition. He should have titled it My Morally Blind Ambition. His smiling face looked at us from newspaper pages and TV screens. He did not feel remorse, he felt comfortable in his role as "star witness" against the President.

When the existence of White House tapes was revealed, Dean said that the tapes would substantiate his charges against Nixon. But the tapes brought to light a bewildering phenomenon: the details of Dean's testimony appeared shifted in time and space. What Dean said had supposedly happened on certain dates actually happened in somewhat different way on different dates and under different circumstances. Some of the incriminating statements, which Dean attributed to other people, miraculously had been uttered by Dean himself and assumed quite different meaning, despite the baffling fact that almost all the words would be the same. To Nixon haters the idea, first aired by Senator Daniel Inouye, that the tapes might have been doctored, appeared confirmed. Nixon supporters dismissed Dean as simply a liar. Dean stated that on September 15, 1973, Nixon congratulated him on successful handling of the cover-up. He stated that Nixon had told him "Bob tells me you are doing a good job..." Senator Gurney of Florida was understandably doubtful: "How can you say that the President knew all about those things from a simple observation by him that 'Bob tells me you are doing a good job'" This led Dean to change slightly Nixon's wording and to complain: "We are quibbling over words." To this Gurney quite pointedly replied: "We are talking about something very important: the guilt or innocence of the President of the United States." Dean was unable to foresee that the words he attributed to Nixon might have an interpretation different from his.

Dean said, "I knew what I knew. I had no fear of being tripped up in cross-examination. Really, to tell the truth is the easiest thing in the world." He told his "truth." He even presented himself as a kind of Messiah who had saved the nation from Nixon's wickedness. "This nation will recover only when we get to the bottom of this situation," Dean said. "I look upon myself as one who is helping in the process." What might indeed help to get to the bottom of Watergate is to bring to the surface the real John Dean, the morally blind, crafty manipulator who has been hiding behind his alter ego, Deep Throat. Dean felt no qualms to attribute to Nixon's remarks a convenient for him meaning. When Dean's interpretation was challenged, he had no difficulty changing his initial wording. Such rewriting of history is very typical of Dean. Dean quite naturally transposed and transfigured facts. According to Dean's testimony, when Dean introduced Gordon Liddy to John Mitchell to unveil the break-in plan for the first time, "Mitchell was amazed. I gave him a look of bewilderment and he winked." There was something basically wrong with this statement, not with its grammar, but with its logic. Why would Dean give Mitchell a "look of bewilderment"? It was Dean who brought Liddy to the meeting to introduce the break-in scheme. Dean had known of the break-in proposal before coming to the meeting with Mitchell. The break-in plan was not a surprise to Dean so why would he give Mitchell "a look of bewilderment?" It was Mitchell who must have been bewildered by hearing about this plan. After shifting words just a bit, one feels the sentence suddenly begins to make sense: "Mitchell was amazed. He gave me a look of bewilderment and I winked."

Dean's projections on certain occasions were reversed: he appropriated the words of others. On March 20, 1973, after conversations with President Nixon, Dean told Richard Moore, a White House official, that Nixon did not know anything about Watergate. "If this is so," said Moore, "it means that the President is badly served." A while later, Dean ran into Egal Krough (a White House official who had arranged Dean's employment in the White House) and told him that the President did not know anything about Watergate and was "badly served." John Mitchell testified that despite his repeated rejections of Gordon Liddy's break-in plans, "somebody was pushing, pushing and pushing." Dean appropriated this phrase. Testifying about planning of the Watergate break-in, Dean stated: "I do not know to this day who kept pushing for those plans -- whether Liddy was pushing, or whether Magruder was pushing, or whether someone was pushing Magruder." It was Dean who was "pushing" these plans, manipulating both Jeb Magruder and Gordon Liddy. It was Dean who prompted Liddy to prepare a new break-in plan after each rejection by John Mitchell. It was Dean who persuaded Magruder not to fire Liddy. Under oath to the Senate Ervin Committee Dean told

how he had rejected Erlichman's suggestion to shred Hunt's papers. But in November 1973 Dean confessed to the prosecutors that he had hidden Hunt's notebooks and in January 1973 secretly shredded them. Many headlines had mushroomed out of so-called Nixon's "enemy lists." But it turned out that Dean had been their author. Dean stated that on September 15, 1972, Nixon had ordered him to prepare the "enemy lists." As it turned out, Dean had been preparing the "enemy list" prior to this meeting with Nixon. Peter Flemming, John Mitchell's lawyer, pointed out Dean's trait of projecting on others his own words and deeds during the questioning at the Mitchell-Stans trial. Citing the transcripts of White House tapes, Flemming demonstrated how Dean had repeatedly attributed his own words to others. By manufacturing the "enemy lists" Dean displayed his own paranoid view of the world.^v

President Nixon did not mention Deep Throat in his Memoirs. Leon Jaworski, the Watergate Special Prosecutor, in his account The Right and the Power, did not inquire into Deep Throat identity despite the startling fact that this personage was the only source of leaks demonizing President Nixon. But Jaworski noticed with amazement that John Dean "seemed to know something about everything that had occurred in the White House." Indeed, John Dean testified with impressive grasp and certainty about the whole web of Watergate break-in and cover-up. His omniscience was hard to explain. John Dean, despite his expert knowledge of Watergate scandal, failed to reveal the "the greatest mystery of our time," the identity of Deep Throat. But he suggested several candidates for this role. His first choice was Robert Bennet, a former CIA official, who denied the charge. In the original version of his book, Blind Ambition, Dean pointed his finger at David Gergen, then the Director of Communications in the Nixon White House. But the published version left the Deep Throat mystery intact. Dean said only that he had been "raking his brains" trying to figure out who Deep Throat was. When Woodward and Bernstein published their book, All the President's Men, Dean said that they had "cooked up Deep Throat just to throw people off." Dean later changed his mind again and said that he knew who Deep Throat was and would reveal him in his next book. So far this promise has remained just a promise.

John Dean and Deep Throat live separate lives on the pages of All the President's Men, thus suggesting that the authors, Woodward and Bernstein, presented them as two separate persons. But strangely enough, John Dean was not even mentioned in the script and did not appear in the cast of All the President's Men - "the best movie of the year." This striking omission is overcompensated by the all important role of Deep Throat, whose shadowy profile lurks prominently in the spooky

underground garage, his voice perfectly audible as he leaked to Woodward the horrifying revelation about the Nixon White House skullduggery, CIA intrigues, FBI conspiracies and the Nixon Reelection Committee's "dirty tricks." The audience was shaken into boiling indignation by the barrage of Nixon's enormities. The vast information provided by Deep Throat inspired some commentators to suggest that he was a "composite figure" of several high government officials who had leaked diverse information from various departments. It was John Dean who masterminded the Watergate break-in and its cover-up. A tragic drama spiced by a comedy of errors followed. Having learned from press reports about the break-in, Haldeman assigned John Dean to find out whether anyone in the White House was involved. Haldeman did not suspect that he was assigning "the thief to catch the thief," which was the original tragic mistake. Dean's only motivation was to cover up his own criminal involvement in the break-in. From the day of the break-in on June 17, 1972 to March 21, 1973 Dean insisted that no one in the White House was involved. Misusing his position as Counsel to the President, Dean gained access to the FBI, Justice Department and CIA officials. He abused the trust of the White House and Republican Reelection Committee staff and manipulated loyal and well-meaning people, entrapping them in the cover-up web he was spinning to escape his own criminal responsibility. The fact that Deep Throat's revelations were almost identical with Dean's testimony at the Senate Watergate hearings has proved resistant to the insight that Deep Throat was John Dean's secret double. When Dean realized that the investigation was threatening to expose him, he began feeding Woodward and Bernstein, with his craftily apportioned "leaks," detracting attention from himself and projecting his own guilt on others. Eventually he implicated Nixon. The *Washington Post* and many other papers were eagerly reporting Dean's distorted version. It was a marriage of convenience of Dean's self-serving duplicity and political biases of Nixon ideological enemies.

An important and also largely misunderstood personage in the Watergate tragicomedy was a strange man by the name of Gordon Liddy. Years later Dean said, "If Liddy would have agreed to Nixon's request to tell the truth, I and Liddy could have saved Nixon." The truth of the matter was that if Liddy would have agreed to Nixon's request to tell the investigators what he knew about the break-in, he would have indeed saved Nixon, but he would have exposed Dean as the mastermind of the break-in and of the cover up. When Liddy was arrested, Dean demanded from Liddy's lawyer to provide him with an affidavit, stating that Liddy had no connection with him. When a rumor that Liddy agreed to testify reached Dean, he almost had a fit of hysteria. In his book he wrote: "Jesus Christ, I thought, Liddy's talking. I couldn't believe it. He had been the rock of the cover-up. If he

slipped off the mountain, it was all over. I started to blurt out what Liddy knew, but checked myself." Liddy has yet to "slipped off the mountain." In 1980 he published his autobiography, titled Will, providing illuminating insight into his confused, distorted, bravado obsessed mind. Liddy's wife, after reading Will, said: "Now everybody will know what I've had to put up with for 23 years." In his autobiography Liddy wrote, introducing himself: "An extraordinary gene pool somehow produced a frail, sickly, little crybaby named George Gordon Battle Liddy." He wrote that he was driven by the need to overcompensate his fears. As a boy he feared rats. To overcome this fear he killed a rat. "For the next hour, I roasted the dead rat. Then I removed the burned carcass with a stick and let it cool. I skinned, then cut up and ate the roasted hunches of the rat... from now on rats could fear me as they feared cats; after all I ate them too." Liddy's life was punctuated by similar aberrations. He was briefly employed by FBI Denver office and long after he had left it, the office Chief Scott Wermer was "to shake his finger" at anyone who would suggest an especially crazy scheme and shout, "That's a liddy! That's a liddy." The FBI men would roar with laughter.

Assistant Attorney General Henry Peterson said about Liddy: "Basically this man is crazy . . . He is burning his arm. He showed it to the prosecutor and said, 'I will stand up to anything . . . jail will not break me, and what have you.'" Peterson described Liddy as a "kind of super patriot" who "out of misguided sense of loyalty to the President of the United States was refusing to cooperate." Liddy was a victim of a self-delusion, which was nourished by Dean. He still believes that John Dean was acting in Nixon's name. Playing on this delusion Dean prompted Liddy to carry out the break-in. Nixon first heard of Liddy when his name came up on June 23, 1972 in the course of Nixon's inquiry of what the break-in was all about. At one point Nixon asked: "Who was the asshole that did it? Is it Liddy? Is that the fellow? He must be a little nuts." To this Haldeman replied, "He is." Nixon then asked, "I mean he just isn't well screwed on, is he? Isn't that the problem?"

This was a big problem. Instead of subjecting Liddy to psychiatric test, Judge John Sirica imposed on him an outrageous sentence of six to twenty years in prison and \$40,000 fine for not cooperation with the court. . Probably nothing short of Nixon's direct, in person, appeal would have changed Liddy's perverted delusion that Nixon had ordered Dean to organize the break-in. Instead of personally ordering Liddy to tell the truth, Nixon, related his request through Liddy's lawyer. This did not help. Liddy refused to talk. Years later President Carter was asked at a press conference whether he could persuade Liddy to tell what he knew about the break-in. Carter replied that according to his "reading of Liddy's mind, Liddy would never talk." In his autobiography Will

Liddy stated that he had been a "good soldier" by keeping silent and thus proving his loyalty to his "prince" that is, Nixon. Liddy still considers Dean a "traitor" to the President and prides himself for not turning "informer." When John Dean and Gordon Liddy met a disaster was bound to happen. A pathetic personage, Liddy was Dean's dupe in the Watergate scandal. Liddy does not realize even today that by not revealing what he knew about the break-in he helped to cover up Dean's criminal involvement and to implicate Nixon and other officials.

Leon Jaworski, a life long liberal democrat, in his book, The Right and the Power, does not hide his personal and political animosity towards Nixon. He stated that Nixon would have never appointed him Special Prosecutor "but for the fact that the public would not have allowed the selection of someone biased in Nixon's favor." But Jaworsky admitted that media coverage of Watergate was "pervasive and overwhelmingly adverse to Mr. Nixon." Jaworsky wrote that if he were asked how long it would be before Mr. Nixon could be afforded his constitutional rights for an impartial jury not influenced by prejudicial publicity he stated that "I would have to say in fairness that I did not know," pointing out that the media "totally saturated the American people with Watergate." A lonely pro-Nixon voice amidst the deafening anti-Nixon cacophony was hardly audible. A *New York Times* Letter to the Editor in 1974 pointed to Watergate's "frightening precedent," stating: "Any future President could be removed from office because some fantastic charges gained wide publicity. The next logical step would be to remove the legally elected head of state by public opinion poll, or by partisan cabal... President Nixon will stand tall in history for his courage and statesmanship in his foreign policy initiatives, in his courageous, if unpopular at the time, decisions on Vietnam and Cambodia, as well as in September 1970 during the Jordanian crisis and in last October [1974] Mideast war, for his remarkable endurance to stay in office and to uphold our constitution despite pressure from his opponents and his fiends...."^{vi}

Dick Harwood, an editor at the *Washington Post*, said that Katherine Graham, the *Washington Post* publisher, was personally involved in directing "an army of reporters assigned to delve into the Watergate story." Woodward and Bernstein led the pack. Steward Alsop had a dinner conversation with Mrs. Graham shortly after the break-in and told her that he liked Nixon's foreign policy and suggested that the *Washington Post* should support Nixon's reelection. Mrs. Graham replied angrily: "I hate him and I'm going to do everything I can to beat him." The *Washington Post's* Editor-in-Chief Benjamin Bradlee insisted that the Nixon administration was "committed to the destruction of the press." Actually, the opposite was true: Bradlee was committed to the

destruction of Nixon. "We don't print the truth," said Bradlee. "We print what we know, what people tell us. So we print lies." Printing leaks of government officials without attribution that is, without revealing their identity, was not the proclaimed policy of the *Washington Post* which made the following announcement in December 1971: no government official would be allowed to talk anonymously on a "source" basis. Deep Throat's leaks were printed without attribution. He obviously was a government official. Bradlee acknowledged in the interview with Larry King that Woodward had told him at the time of the Watergate scandal who Deep Throat was. Bradlee, naturally, revealed this information to his boss, Mrs. Graham. She and Bradlee knew that Deep Throat, that is John Dean, was criminally involved in Watergate, that he feared exposure and that his leaks were self-serving. On May 16, 1973, Woodward had his last meeting with Deep Throat in the underground garage. Woodward wrote down in his notebook: "Deep Throat was pacing nervously. His lower jaw seemed to quiver. Liddy told Dean that they could shoot him and / or that he would shoot himself, but that he would "never talk and always be a good soldier." But Dean began to suspect that Gordon Liddy had "started to talk." Woodward reported Deep Throat's behavior to his bosses. It was at this point that Woodward was ordered by Graham and Bradlee to stop having secret meetings with Deep Throat. But Woodward continued to receive Deep Throat's leaks in meetings with Deep Throat's "principle associate," who was Dean's lawyer. This lawyer revealed to Woodward that John Dean had refused to be a "scapegoat" and "was going to implicate the President in the cover-up."

On June 16, 1973 *The Washington Post* published one of Deep Throat's revelations and the Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox held a press conference announcing his intention to indict Nixon. The same day the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev arrived in Washington for a summit meeting with Nixon. The summit moved to San Clemente. At 10:30 p.m. Nixon received Kissinger's message: "The Russians want to talk." Brezhnev proposed a Soviets-American deal to jointly force the "withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied territories" and "international guarantees for this type of settlement." Nixon refused. He wrote in his memoirs:

Brezhnev was trying to browbeat me into imposing on Israel a settlement based on Arab terms... I refused. My agreement to Brezhnev's demand would amount to our abandoning Israel.... I am confident that the firmness I showed that night reinforced the seriousness of the message I conveyed to the Soviets when I ordered a military alert four months later during the Yom Kippur War. ^{vii}

When the Yom Kippur War broke out in October 1973, the Watergate was reaching its climax. Headlines were proclaiming that Nixon was "paralyzed" and "Nixon Can Not Survive Dean." This convinced Brezhnev that Nixon's weakness would allow the Soviets to provoke an Arab-Israeli war and then to intervene with immunity. They acted fast. Neither American nor Israeli intelligence had time to evaluate the significance of the suddenly detected massive Soviet deliveries of military hardware to Egypt and Syria. Israelis were caught unprepared and suffered initial defeats. "Get over there everything that flies," Nixon told Kissinger, ordering him to provide Israel with badly needed arms. When Israelis rolled back and routed Egyptian and Syrian forces, the Soviets sent Nixon a threatening note demanding joint Soviet-American military intervention. Had the U.S. refused to join them, the note warned, Soviet troops would intervene unilaterally to "guarantee peace." Nixon's response was prompt and unequivocal - he proclaimed a military alert and told the Soviets to stay out. They did. The media accused Nixon of proclaiming military alert in order to "detract public attention from Watergate." The fact of the matter was that Nixon, despite Watergate, prevented Soviet intervention and saved Israel. The Watergate hysteria reached a boiling point in March 1974 when even some of Nixon's supporters asked for his resignation. To save the nation from the agony of impeachment trial Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974.

In the following years John Dean was in the news on some occasions. On October 13, 1976, during Jimmy Carter's election campaign against Jerald Ford a newspaper headline announced: "Dean Names Ford, as Nixon's Go-between in Watergate." One of Carter's prominent campaign issues was the pardon of Nixon by President Ford. Carter in his 1976 election campaign was extolling "post-Watergate morality," promising to cleanse the nation of the Watergate and Vietnam "shame." David Brinkley projected Carter's victory on election night and then announced: "John Dean had finally found two persons in California to vouch for his reliability so that he could obtain a card to a local library." Brinkley smiled, perhaps suggesting a connection between Carter's victory and Dean's "reliability." In 1982 Nixon's former aides gathered in the Washington's Marriott Hotel for a private dinner to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Nixon's landslide victory in 1972 elections. A large sign read, "Welcome class of 1972." Dean was not invited, but nevertheless he was in the news on this occasion. "I am delighted I wasn't invited to the Nixon dinner," stated Dean through a public relations firm in Los Angeles. "I am just surprised that the school for scoundrels would hold a class reunion." John Dean was also in great demand as the "expert on Watergate" on various TV talk shows during Monica Lewinsky scandal. On September 17, 1998, he was interviewed on Fox News, stating that he was in possession of some "exculpatory information" that could exonerate President

Nixon, but he did not say what it was. Perhaps, he had in mind a revelation that Deep Throat was his secret double.

With the passage of years most people stopped consider Nixon a pariah. President Ronald Reagan often sought Nixon's advice on foreign affairs and domestic policies. Nixon wrote several brilliant bestsellers and appeared before large audiences, which greeted him with standing ovations. The press stopped "kicking Nixon around." Bob Dole and Henry Kissinger cried at Nixon's funeral. Perceptions change as time corrects distortions. Eventually the ridiculous break-in will be recognized for what it was: a blown out of all proportions stupid adventure of Dean and Liddy and not a diabolical conspiracy by Nixon, a great statesman who had been twice elected Congressman, twice Senator, twice Vice-President and twice President of the United States, the last time by the greatest landslide in history. Dean's shrewd use of the title "Counsel to the President," a title of very limited importance in reality, but when peddled with Dean's characteristic poise was instrumental in misleading many people and helping him to implicate theme. All of them, including Nixon, had their assigned places in Dean's cover-up scheme without ever being aware of it. Gordon Strachan testified that he had always been amazed how well Dean remembered exactly who was doing what in his cover-up story. It did not occurred to Strachan that Dean was acting out his own scheme and he knew exactly which component of it should be galvanized into action. Rewriting history, he portrayed himself as one who served "as a restraining influence against many wild and crazy schemes." This was a ridiculous distortion of truth. The picture of an eerie atmosphere, secretiveness and intrigues in the White House, which Dean depicted in his lifeless monotone, has disturbed many people who apparently did not realize that what disturbed them was not a real picture of the White House, but Dean's projected and perverted version of it. He was the only constantly functioning link between various people, who never talked about Watergate with each other. It was Dean, who by telephone calls, secret meetings, unsigned memoranda and suggestive innuendo, wrapped them all up in one web he himself had spun.

After accusing President Nixon of various crimes, Dean pleaded with the Ervin Committee to "forgive" Nixon. It is quite obvious, especially if we recall how persistently Dean bargained for immunity, that Dean was not at all interested in soliciting forgiveness for Nixon. In a transfigured and projected form he asked forgiveness for himself. Press reports, that Dean had pleaded guilty to numerous crimes, were buried in the back pages, if mentioned at all. He was assigned an office with his nameplate on the door in the prosecutors' section of the Justice Department as if he was one of

the prosecutors. As the result of plea bargaining his sentence was reduced to four months imprisonment in a privileged facility. Then, for years, he became an almost forgotten man. Those who used him to destroy Nixon have shied away from Dean as if they sensed embarrassment. They still hide John Dean behind his Deep Throat mask. " But one day this mask will drop and the Watergate scandal will then be seen in a different light. The White House tapes actually tell a story quite different from what was read into them at the time. Instead of a "smoking gun" the tapes revealed how Nixon desperately tried to find out from Dean and Liddy the truth about the Watergate scandal. The tapes also reveal that Nixon did not order the break-in. Not having ordered the break-in, Nixon was not interested in covering it up. He was not involved in the cover-up. Criminals do not tape-record themselves. Before resigning Nixon stated that he had "no knowledge of the cover-up." He did not lie to the nation, nor did he lie under oath. It was John Dean, who instead of telling the truth about his involvement in the break-in and in the cover-up, misled and tried to entrap Nixon. The tapes reveal that Dean complained to Nixon about a "cancer growing on the Presidency" without admitting that he was that cancer .

ⁱ Leonard Garment, *In Search of Deep Throat - The Greatest Political Mystery of Our Time*, Basic Books, New York, 2000, p. 13-14

ⁱⁱ *The New York Times* July 24, 2000.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid*, p.222

^{iv} *The New York Times* November 19, 2000, p. WK 15

^v See Roman Brackman's article *Dzon Din Pod Maskoy Vmeniamosty* [*John Dean Behind the Mask of Sanity*], in the New York City Russian Language newspaper *Novoe Russkoe Slovo*, April 28, 1974, p. 2

^{vi} *The New York Times*, April 12, 1974, "If the President Withdrew...", Roman Brackman's Letter to the Editor

^{vii} *RN - THE MEMOIRS OF RICHARD NIXON*, Crosset & Dunlap, New York 1978, pp. 884-885