

Who Will Get The Movie Rights ?

The following article originally appeared in the November 7, 1974 issue of the Village Voice. The article, written by Joe Flaherty, is being reprinted here not only for its satirical value but because it expresses the sentiments many of us have concerning Watergate affair and the new President of the land of the dollar bill.

After listening to President (Scoutmaster) Ford's speech on the dismal state of our economy, I have to feel the nostalgia craze has reached its peak. A sensible man could only arrive at the conclusion that there is now a "Redraft Nixon" move afoot in the land.

At least Nixon took cognizance of the World Bank, cartels, monopolies, laundered money, huge defense budgets, overseas outpourings, and interwoven financial networks as intricate as the veins in a rummy's nose.

Ford, on the other hand, has reduced the crisis of that of a balky boiler in a high school. If all us "kids" flushed just once, were less lavish in washing our hands, and strangled the spigot to prevent it from dripping, the old clinker would last until we sold enough cookies and chance books to replace it.

I guess it's a case of understanding a peculiar madness. Nixon suffered from the adult maladies of power, greed, and dominance (as long as you can clock it, you can cure it), but Ford is unchartable, thus dangerous. He is a bit like one of those spaced-out innocents who walks into a tough-assed bar and orders a glass of hot water, then proceeds to produce a tea bag from his pocket to dunk. The stuff that sends shrill whistles up the spines of ironworkers and dockwallopers.

When he ended by reading a letter from an eight-year-old about shutting out the lights when going to bed, and "if anything scares you, call Mommy and Daddy," one waited for the offstage voice of Uncle Don saying, "That ought to hold the little bastards for a while." Then he told us to clean up our plates. What was the message — "Mangia America."

Is this the way Churchill rallied Britain? DeGaulle regrouped France? or even at knee level view, the Pied Piper dispossessed the rats from Hamlin? No, this couldn't be my America.

With this in mind, combined with the news that Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward's grand book, "All the President's Men," has been bought for a movie, I began to think of casting the "Watergate Scandals." Though I must also bow to Sid Zion who during one of our Bulldog Drummond evenings of the mind (fog was everywhere) instigated (Sidney's trump suit) this though in me.

So I began canvassing the best minds of my generation with the best Kohoutek-like brilliance, and the results follow. But first, a word to both those sharpies at Parker Brothers who might be tempted to make an incur-



H. R. HALDEMAN (Robert Cummings)

"When movie rights to 'All the President's Men' were bought, I thought of casting the 'Watergate Scandals.'"



JOHN ERLICHMAN (Peter Boyle)



JOHN MITCHELL (Ed Begley)



JOHN DEAN (Keir Dullea)



HENRY KISSINGER (Art Buchwald)



RON ZIEGLER (Rex Reed)



JOHN SIRICA (Edward Binns)



L. PATRICK GRAY (Patrick McVey)



G. GORDON LIDDY (Burt Reynolds)



E. HOWARD HUNT (David Brian)



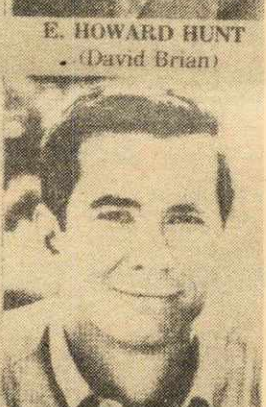
PAT NIXON (Zasu Pitts)



DITA BEARD (Thelma Ritter)



JULIE EISENHOWER (Annette Funicello)



DAVID EISENHOWER (Anthony Perkins)



JAMES ST. CLAIR (George McCready)



DONALD SEGRETTI (Bobby Darin)



JEB MAGRUDER (Richard Beymer)



ROSEMARY WOODS (Mildred Natwick)



SAM ERVIN (W. C. Fields—after lunch)



EDWARD GURNEY (Shepperd Strudwick)



LEON JAWORSKI (Cecil Calloway)



CONGRESS AND SENATE (E. G. Marshall)

Charles Colson: Simon Oakland or Marvin Kaplan, who used to read poetry on the old "Meet Millie" show

L. Patrick Gray: Patrick McVey (Steve Wilson of TV's "Big Town")

G. Gordon Liddy: Burt Reynolds

E. Howard Hunt: David Brian

Herbert Kalmbach: Pat Hingle

Anthony Ulasewicz: Sheldon Leonard

Pat Nixon: Laureen Tuttle or Zasu Pitts

Martha Mitchell: Jesse Royce Landis

Dita Beard: Thelma Ritter

Julie Eisenhower: Mary Tyler Moore, Annette Funicello, Anita Bryant, or a cameo by Patty Hearst prior to Tania

Tricia Cox: Carol Lynley

David Eisenhower: Anthony Perkins

Edward Cox: Skip Homeier

Maureen Dean: Patti Page

Lawyer John Wilson: George Meany

Counsel James St. Clair: George McCready

James McCord: Senator James Buckley

Maurice Stans: Maurice Evans

Gordon Strachan: Dick Cavett

Donald Searetti: Bobby Darin

Hugh Sloan, Herbert Porter, Robert Odle, Dwight Chapin, and Jeb Stuart Magruder: All played by Richard Beymer, for obvious reasons

Robert Mardian: Everett Sloan

Frederick LaRue: Joseph Wiseman

Egil Krogh: James Franciscus

Alexander Butterfield and Ken Clawson: Both by Grady Sutton

Rosemary Woods: Mildred Natwick

Sam Ervin: Eugene Palette before the lunch recess, W.C. Fields after

Lowell Weicker: Richard Kiley

Howard Baker: John Forsythe

Joseph Montoya: J. Carrol Naish

Daniel Inouye: Oscar Levant

Edward Gurney: Shepperd Strudwick

Henry Petersen: Samuel Beckett

Elliot Richardson: Clark Kent (might have trouble with Equity on Krypton)

Archibald Cox: Fred Gwynne

Father John McLaughlin: Bobby Riggs

Leon Jaworski: Cecil Kellaway

The Voice of Deep Throat: Charles McGraw (this choice brought a protest from Howard Cosell)

The Congress and The Senate: E.G. Marshall, for budgetary reasons

The Watergate Complex: Orson Welles

These decisions are not final, and suggestions are welcome. I am now in negotiation with the publisher of this august organ to arrange for winning casting directors to spend an evening in Washington — where they will have their choice of a cigarette in an underground garage with Deep Throat or a night out on the town to try to light the fuse of the Argentine Firecrackers.

Now, to roll the credits:
John Sirica: Edward Binns

Nixon: David Frye (we owe him)
Agnew: Edward Arnold (though in Agnew's own tacky mind, he probably sees himself as Louis Calhern)
Carl Bernstein: Dustin Hoffman
John Dean: Keir Dullea

Bob Woodward: Robert Redford
John Mitchell: Ed Begley
H. R. Haldeman: Robert Cummings
Henry Kissinger: Art Buchwald
Ron Ziegler: Rex Reed
John Ehrlichman: Peter Boyle

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L. Patrick Gray: Patrick McVey (Steve Wilson of TV's "Big Town")
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Herbert Kalmbach: Pat Hingle
Anthony Ulasewicz: Sheldon Leonard
Pat Nixon: Laureen Tuttle or Zasu Pitts
Martha Mitchell: Jesse Royce Landis
Dita Beard: Thelma Ritter
Julie Eisenhower: Mary Tyler Moore, Annette Funicello, Anita Bryant, or a cameo by Patty Hearst prior to Tania
Tricia Cox: Carol Lynley
David Eisenhower: Anthony Perkins
Edward Cox: Skip Homeier
Maureen Dean: Patti Page
Lawyer John Wilson: George Meany
Counsel James St. Clair: George McCready
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Maurice Stans: Maurice Evans
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