

Seven-year investigation offers new light on Watergate



Silent Coup:
The Removal of a President
by
Len Colodny
and Robert Gettlin
St. Martin's Press, © 1991
439 pages
Hardcover price: \$24.95
★ ★ ★ 1/2

No, this is not about JFK. Perhaps a more accurate and less misleading title for this book would be *All the President's Men: The Non-Fiction Version*. This book by private investigator Len Colodny and Robert Gettlin, a reporter for the Newhouse Newspapers Washington Bureau, reinterprets many of the long-held beliefs about the Watergate scandal that eventually toppled Richard Nixon's presidency. *Silent Coup* picks up where a 1984 book by Jim Hougan, titled *Secret Agenda*, left off. Hougan's book offered the first in-depth investigation into the purpose of the burglaries. Hougan's book brought out evidence that Watergate conspirators James McCord and E. Howard Hunt were actually working undercover for the CIA under the

noses of the White House and their immediate boss, G. Gordon Liddy. Because gathering intelligence on citizens in the United States is against the CIA's charter, the agency used the White House-sponsored team as cover for its illegal operation. The CIA wanted the information to build "psychological machines" on domestic political figures so it could predict how they would react to certain situations. Where Hougan's book dealt mostly with the burglars, Colodny and Gettlin's effort takes up the politics of the break-in, cover-up and reporter Bob Woodward's role in exposing them. The authors spent seven years investigating the scandal, which began shortly after midnight on June 17, 1972, when five burglars were caught inside the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate Building in Washington, D.C. The official version of events, as reported by *Washington Post* reporters Woodward and Carl Bernstein, claimed the burglars were sent by Nixon reelection campaign leader and former Attorney General John Mitchell to take up muck to use against the Democrats in the forthcoming election. Research for the book included interviews with all of the principal scandal players, analysis of the complete Oval Office logs for the period, and documents from the Senate Watergate Committee and the National Archives. With this research evidence, Colodny and Gettlin show that Woodward and Bernstein's version of events didn't begin to skim the surface of the big picture, and in many cases was completely inaccurate. Colodny and Gettlin bring out convincing evidence that the man who ordered the burglars into Watergate was not the

former attorney general, but John Dean, White House counsel, and the first principal figure to come forward and start singing to the Senate Watergate Committee. Colodny and Gettlin assert that Dean sent the burglars into the Watergate not to get information about the Democrats, but to get a "little black book" that contained the names of prostitutes meeting with Democratic Party figures. The book offers evidence that the madam who was eventually implicated in connection with the call-girl ring was a longtime friend and sometimes roommate of John Dean's girlfriend and later wife, Maureen Biner. When the burglary went awry, and the proverbial stuff hit the fan, Dean went on a frantic campaign to cover his own involvement in the break-in. To do this, he was willing to implicate and hand over anyone and everyone in Nixon's administration. After dealing with Dean's involvement with the break-in and subsequent cover-up, the book details Alexander Haig's involvement and the role he played in leading to Nixon's ultimate downfall while serving as tricky Dick's chief of staff. The book digs up Haig's role in a 1970 incident known as the Moorer-Radford affair when the Joint Chiefs of Staff were caught spying on the White House. The JCS were involved in the spy ring because of what they felt was Nixon's, and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's policies of ending the Vietnam War and improving relations with communist China and the Soviet Union. When the authors interviewed Charles Radford, the Navy yeoman who did the spying for the JCS, he told them the ultimate goal of the spying was "bringing Nixon down. Really, getting rid of Kissinger

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— Kissinger was a real monkey wrench in things." Because the group eventually caught in the Watergate break-in had also investigated the Moorer-Radford incident, an in-depth investigation of that group, known as "the plumbers," posed a threat of exposing not only Haig's role in the spying, but also the ultimate goal of bringing down the president. While chief of staff, Haig's only concern should have been protecting the president and providing him with good advice. Instead, his main goal was to cover his own tracks, and those of the JCS, concerning Moorer-Radford. *Silent Coup* exposes a pattern of poor advice and manipulation by Haig that actually had the effect of making Nixon look even more guilty. The book also offers evidence that Haig, as Woodward's infamous Deep Throat, not only directed Woodward to the 18-minute gap in the White House tapes, but might have done the erasing himself. Next on the list of exposed myths is

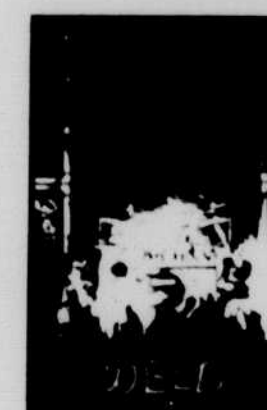
journalism's demigod, Bob Woodward. Colodny and Gettlin discovered that Woodward's past is not the usual route one would expect for a cub reporter. For his own part, Woodward has been very vague about his road to journalism success. After graduating from Yale, Woodward spent five years in the Office of Naval Intelligence. He was required to stay for only four, but Woodward claimed red tape delayed his release. Woodward's father, however, told the authors that his son volunteered for the extra year of service because he was excited about his assignment. Woodward consistently characterized his job in the Navy as "miserable" and boring. He said he did nothing but direct men who handled communication. However, the authors discovered Woodward's role involved "briefing" the highest military and intelligence officers on the latest intelligence and policy decisions. Two of the officers Woodward briefed from 1969-1970 were none other than Adm. Thomas Moorer and Gen. Alexander Haig. When the authors interviewed Woodward, he vehemently denied this and claimed he never met Haig until 1973. When the authors asked Adm. Moorer if briefing Haig was one of Woodward's duties, he answered "sure, of course." Former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, Laird's aide Jerry Friedheim and a member of Kissinger's National Security Council staff, Roger Morris, all confirmed the Haig/Woodward relationship. Why would Woodward lie about this? It has a lot to do with credibility and motivation, but for the best answer, read the book. By Pat Malach Emerald Managing Editor

Mix of good, bad found on Elton John album



Various artists
Two Rooms
PolyGram
1991 ©
★ ★ ★

Following a recent trend of compilation cover albums, PolyGram released *Two Rooms*, songs originally written by Elton John and Bernie Taupin. Artists range from Sting to Jon Bon Jovi, and like most cover albums, there is good, bad, and ugly to be found among these classic Elton John tunes. Among the best cuts are Eric Clapton's "Border Song" and Rod Stewart's "Your Song." Joe Cocker sings a soulful "Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word," and The Who's rendition of "Saturday Night's Alright" has a bite reminiscent of the band's heyday. There are a few losers among the lot. The Beach Boys torture "Crocodile Rock," and Sinead O'Conner's "Sacrifice" resembles an asthma attack. Overall, though, Elton John's music proves to earn the title of legendary.



Neil Young
and Crazy Horse
Weld
Reprise Records
1991 ©
★ ★ ★ 1/2

When I read Neil Young was touring with Sonic Youth, I didn't believe it. After one listen to *Weld*, Young's new live album, I'm not surprised. *Weld* is Young at his noisiest, and his best. There is no trace of the acoustic *Harvest*. All the tracks are heavily laden in electric guitar buzz, and Young proves that he can pull this kind of music off. The most explosive songs are "Keep on Rockin' in the Free World" and a 13-minute "Like a Hurricane." The tamest track is Young's personal rendition of Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind," but don't let that fool you. Young's getting louder with age, but he hasn't lost his touch.



The Black Watch
Flowering
Doctor Dream Records
1991 ©
★ ★ 1/2

The violin and rock seem a strange combination. But *Black Watch*, on its self-titled album, manages to integrate the two sounds to produce odd but innovative music. *Black Watch*'s songs are stylistically varied. The bluesy edge of "A Better Way" contrasts with the dark "Jennifer, Jennifer." There are some foot-tapping tracks as well, such as "Terrific." The songs echo influence from R.E.M., but the vocals are strictly industrial rock. This is the major drawback to the album as it is too heavy-handed for the music. The violin, however, brings flavor and energy to everything. By Moe Reynolds Emerald Contributor

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Robin DeArmond 485-3552
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