

## Watergate

The Downfall of an American President

## Watergate Complex



Hotel, Offices, Apartments  
even a grocery store and Post Office

## The Plumbers

- They “plug up leaks”
- Includes former CIA agents
- Funded by a secret “slush fund” associated with CRP (“CReeP”), the Committee to Re-elect the President

## The Break-In

- June 17, 1972: Plumbers break into Democratic National Committee Offices to fix some wiretap devices they had planted in late May
- Frank Wills, security guard, becomes suspicious & calls DC police
- Police discover/arrest 5 men & find \$2300 in sequential \$100 bills

## The Reporters

- Bob Woodward & Carl Bernstein from *Washington Post* begin investigating
- “Deep Throat”, a secret source, provided information to the reports
  - DT’s identity was secret until he revealed it himself in May 2005—Mark Felt, 2<sup>nd</sup> in command at the FBI
- “Follow the Money”

## Congress Investigates

- Many Nixon aides implicated in break-in & cover-up—forced to resign or got fired
- Special Prosecutor appointed to help investigation
- Investigation gets close to Nixon
- “Saturday Night Massacre”: Oct. 20, 1973
- Vice President Spiro Agnew implicated in tax evasion and resigns

## The Resignation

- Gerald Ford becomes Vice President
  - If a VP vacancy occurs, Pres. nominates & Congress confirms
- Nixon's recorded conversations
  - Supreme Court orders tapes to be turned over
- Impeachment looming & pressure from Republicans force Nixon to Resign
- Gerald Ford succeeds to Presidency & grants a full pardon to Nixon