



Spygate Is a Bigger Scandal Than Watergate

The liberal mainstream media appear determined to either ignore the recent revelation of “Spygate” — the scandal of the FBI having planted a spy in the Trump campaign in 2016 — or spin it as an anti-Trump story. However, the reality is that this is (as President Trump tweeted) the “all time biggest political scandal.”

And, yes, that includes Watergate.

While “Watergate” refers *generally* to the overall scandal, it specifically refers to the break-in at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters located in the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C. in June of 1972 for the purpose of bugging the offices of the DNC. The break-in and bugging were orchestrated within the highest ranks of the Nixon administration — and apparently with Nixon’s knowledge.

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The FBI investigated the break-in and quickly discovered a link to Nixon. Cash found on the five burglars was traced back to a secret slush fund associated with Nixon’s re-election campaign. Nixon obstructed the investigation from the beginning, causing Congress to investigate.

While Nixon attempted to dodge being implicated, the “smoking gun” tape was proof that he was at the head of efforts to obstruct the FBI’s investigation. The tape, ironically recorded by Nixon himself just days after the Watergate break-in, is of a conversation he had with his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, wherein they discussed “the Democratic break-in thing.” Specifically mentioned were “the problem area because the FBI is not under control” and the fact that the FBI investigation was “leading into some productive areas,” which Haldeman aptly described as “some directions we don’t want it to go.”

When it was discovered that Nixon used a tape recorder in the Oval Office to record conversations, investigators demanded the tapes. Nixon refused, and the Supreme Court ruled against him. One of the tapes he was eventually forced to turn over was the “smoking gun” tape mentioned above.

As a result of the evidence against Nixon, Congress began what certainly would have been a successful impeachment ending in Nixon’s conviction and removal from office. To avoid that, Nixon followed in the steps of his first vice president, Spiro Agnew, and resigned on August 9, 1974. Less than a month later, he was pardoned for his many crimes by Agnew’s (and Nixon’s) replacement, President Gerald Ford.

By the time the dust had settled, America had a new (unelected) president and vice president, 69 people involved in Watergate had been indicted, 48 (including some top Nixon officials) were convicted, and some 20 of them went to prison. Watergate so damaged the credibility of the Republican Party that it was perhaps the decisive factor in putting Jimmy Carter in the White House.





Written by [C. Mitchell Shaw](#) on May 28, 2018

Largely due to the fact that the media had been involved in breaking the case through solid investigative journalism, the term “Watergate” has become [metonymous](#) with political scandal, with subsequent scandals being referred to by simply adding the suffix “gate” to the end of their names. The list of “gate” scandals includes:

- “Travelgate” to refer to the 1993 firing of staff members of the White House Travel Office by President Bill Clinton;
- “Chinagate” to refer to the 1996 Clinton re-election campaign finance scandal wherein China sought to influence the foreign and domestic policy of the United States;
- “Monicagate” and “Lewinskigate” to refer to President Clinton’s sexual relationship with a 22-year-old White House intern and his subsequent perjury to hide it;
- “Cablegate” to refer to the 2010 WikiLeaks publication of more than 250,000 classified (and embarrassing) State Department cables;
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