

Watergate Timeline

Student Handout

Directions: Using the URL below complete the timeline of the political scandal commonly refer to as Watergate. Make sure you click on each of the file tabs.

(http://www.ford.utexas.edu/museum/exhibits/watergate_files/index.html)

May 28, 1972

Operatives working for the Committee to Re-elect the President (CRP also CREEP) burglarize the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Washington, DC Watergate office complex.

January 30, 1973

James McCord and G. Gordon Liddy are convicted on eight counts, both having pled innocent. Echoing the sentiments of a shocked, disbelieving president, aide Charles Colson tells Nixon that Judge Sirica is "a hot-headed Italian... [who] has handled himself terribly."

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February 7, 1973

Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities is established. Senator Sam Ervin (D-NC) is its chairman.

July 18, 1973

Nixon orders an end to secret taping

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July 22, 1973

A Louis Harris poll shows 44 percent of participants agreeing that Nixon should resign if it can be proven he ordered a cover-up, with 70 percent rating his handling of the matter as “only fair or poor.” An even 50 percent believe Dean’s charges against the president but split 38 percent to 37 percent over whom they would believe if Nixon denied those charges.

July 23, 1973

The Watergate committee and special prosecutor Cox demand Nixon surrender certain tapes and documents.

November 21, 1973

The White House reports that two of the subpoenaed tapes are missing and one contains an erased gap of 18 ½ minutes. Nixon’s secretary, Rose Mary Woods, cannot account for what experts conclude are multiple erasures covering that span. Suspicions surface that evidence is being destroyed.

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February 6, 1974

The House votes to authorize the Judiciary Committee to investigate grounds for impeaching the president.

April 30, 1974

Nixon ignores the subpoena and instead provides edited transcripts, announcing his intention to release a total of 1,200 such pages. The House Judiciary Committee insists on hearing the tapes. The public is shocked by the language in the transcripts, its coarser adjectives masked by the repeated phrase "expletive deleted."

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May 9, 1974

The House Judiciary Committee begins impeachment hearings.

September 8, 1974

In a surprise Sunday morning announcement, President Ford grants a “full free and absolute” pardon to Nixon for “all offenses against the United States” committed between January 20, 1969 and August 9, 1974.