

WOODWARD

We have to talk.
What the hell were you doing rewriting
my story--

BERNSTEIN

--I sure couldn't hurt it, could I?--

WOODWARD

--it was fine the way it was--

BERNSTEIN

--it was bullshit the way it was--

WOODWARD

--I have to stand here and listen to
the staff correspondent from Virginia?--

BERNSTEIN

(a sore subject)

--what have you been here, nine
months?--I been in this business
since I was sixteen--

WOODWARD

--and you've had some fucking meteoric
rise, that's for sure--by the time
you turn forty you might be the head
of the Montana bureau--

BERNSTEIN

--you only got the job because both
you and Bradlee went to Yale--

WOODWARD

--Bradlee went to Harvard--

BERNSTEIN

--they're all the same, all those
Ivy League places--they teach you
about striped ties and suddenly you're
smart--

WOODWARD

--I'm smart enough to know my story
was solid--

BERNSTEIN

--mine's better--

WOODWARD

--no way--

BERNSTEIN

(handing them over)

--read 'em both and you'll see--

WOODWARD

...crap...

BERNSTEIN

Is mine better?

WOODWARD

(handing the stories
back)

What is it about my writing that's
so rotten?

BERNSTEIN

(as he exits)

Mainly it has to do with your choice
of words.

WOODWARD (V.O.)

(from behind the pillar)

Carl?

BERNSTEIN

(turns)

Yeah?

WOODWARD

(pushing his chair
briefly into view)

Fuck you, Carl.

RICHARD NIXON ON THE TUBE.

BERNSTEIN

You heard?

They put us both on the break-in
thing. Simons liked the way we worked
together. Listen, I'm sorry I said your story
was bullshit.

WOODWARD

It's OK; I'm sorry I called you a
failure.

BERNSTEIN

Forget it, the main thing--
--did you call me a failure?

WOODWARD

I was sure trying.

Occasionally, NIXON is audible in the background.

WOODWARD

All right, what do we know?

BERNSTEIN

Let me lay a little theory on you--

WOODWARD

--I'm not interested in theory. What do we know? For example, Hunt's disappeared.

BERNSTEIN

Well, Barker tried to get blueprints of the Miami Convention Center and the air-conditioning system.

WOODWARD

And McCord was carrying an application for college press credentials for the Democratic convention. The Times has got to be full of it--
it can't be crazy Cubans.

BERNSTEIN

What, though?

(points to Nixon)

It can't be the Republicans--he'd never allow something as stupid as this, not when he's gonna slaughter McGovern anyway.

WOODWARD

Right. Nixon didn't get where he got by being dumb--

(stops abruptly)

--listen, that was a Watergate question--

NIXON ON THE TUBE. Serious now.

NIXON

The White House has had no involvement whatever in this particular incident.

WOODWARD

Hey?

BERNSTEIN

Hmm.

WOODWARD

What do you think he meant, this particular incident? Were there others? How would we find out? You know anyone important?

BERNSTEIN

I lived here all my life, I got a million contacts, but they're all bus boys and bellhops.