

Edward Mezvinsky: A Political Life in a Watergate Era June 17, 1972 – May 14, 1976

Year	Event
6/17/1972	Five men arrested for breaking into the Democratic National Committee offices at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. The White House Press Secretary dismisses the break-in as a “third-rate burglary.” President Nixon denies any involvement in the crime.
8/1/1972	<i>The Washington Post</i> reports that a \$25,000 check for Nixon’s re-election campaign had been deposited into the bank account of one of the Watergate burglars, suggesting a possible link between the burglars and Nixon.
9/29/1972	<i>The Washington Post</i> reports on an alleged secret fund controlled by U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell. The money fund is reportedly used to conduct intelligence gathering against the Democratic Party.
10/10/1972	The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in a story from <i>The Washington Post</i> , is reported to have established that the Watergate break-in was tied to the Nixon re-election campaign.
10/12/1972	Texas Representative Wright Patman, Chair of the House Banking and Currency Committee requested that four Nixon advisors appear before his committee to answer questions relating to the Watergate break-in. All four advisors declined and Patman convened the committee and addressed four empty chairs.
11/11/1972	President Nixon re-elected in landslide, defeating George McGovern of South Dakota.
1/8/1973	The Watergate break-in trial begins.
1/30/1973	G. Gordon Liddy, a former Nixon aide, and James McCord, Jr., a former CIA operative, are convicted of conspiracy, burglary, and wiretapping for their part in the Watergate break-in. The other defendants in the break-in plead guilty before the trial began.
4/30/1973	Two senior White House staff members, H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman resign over the Watergate scandal. U.S. Attorney General Richard Kleindienst also resigns. John Dean, the White House counsel, is fired by President Nixon.
5/3-6/3/1973	In a report from <i>The Washington Post</i> , fired White House Counsel John Dean tells Watergate investigators that he spoke to President Nixon about a Watergate cover-up at least thirty-five times.
5/17/1973	Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina convenes the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities (known as the Watergate committee) to investigate the Watergate scandal. The committee hearings are broadcast live on television.
5/18/1973	Archibald Cox is appointed by new U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson as a special prosecutor to investigate the Nixon re-election campaign and its involvement in the Watergate break-in.
5/19/1973	James McCord, Jr, one of five burglars arrested at the Watergate Complex who had been convicted for his crimes in January of 1973, writes a letter to Judge John Sirica claiming that he was pressured into pleading guilty and to remain silent about the Watergate break-in. McCord also claims that testimony was perjured in the case.
7/13/1973	Former White House staff member Alexander Butterfield gives testimony before the Senate committee that President Nixon has recorded conversations and telephone calls from the White House dating back to 1971. These recordings become known as the “Nixon Tapes.”
7/23/1973	The White House refuses to comply with Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox’s subpoena to turn over the “Nixon Tapes” to the Senate Watergate committee.

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10/20/1973	US Attorney General Elliott Richardson and Deputy U.S. Attorney General William Ruckelshaus resign after refusing to fire special prosecutor Archibald Cox at President Nixon's behest. Acting U.S. Attorney General Robert H. Bork fires Cox on the order of the President. The event becomes known as the "Saturday Night Massacre."
10/23/1973	House Resolution 629 of the 93rd United States Congress authorizes the House Committee on the Judiciary to begin an investigation into whether President Nixon committed a "high crime or misdemeanor" that would justify impeachment. A second resolution (H.R. 803) will be authorized on February 6, 1974.
11/2/1973	Leon Jaworski is named Special Prosecutor by Robert Bork following a public outcry after the "Saturday Night Massacre." Like his predecessor Archibald Cox, Jaworski will also issue subpoenas for the "Nixon Tapes."
11/17/1973	"I'm not a crook," President Nixon declares in a question and answer session with journalists in Florida.
3/18/1974	Judge John J. Sirica decides that the sealed Watergate Grand Jury report used to indict the Watergate burglars should be transmitted to the House Committee on the Judiciary. The Grand Jury report is said to contain evidence of misconduct by President Nixon. The transmitted report is sometimes referred to as the "Road Map" for impeachment. The actual Grand Jury report will remain sealed until at least 2024.
4/3/1974	An examination into Nixon's tax returns is compiled by the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation. Nixon's relationship with the IRS was under scrutiny even before the Watergate break-in. A major concern was whether Nixon lied on his tax returns regarding improvements made to his home in Orange County, California. It eventually came to light that Nixon had supplied the head of the IRS with a copy of his enemies list so that he could target Democrats for IRS investigation.
4/28/74	Peter Rodino, Chair of the House Committee on the Judiciary Prior to the House Committee on the Judiciary submits a report titled "The Impeachment Inquiry: What it Means" to members of his committee. In an interview with <i>The New York Times</i> (28 April 1974), Edward Mezvinsky discusses the impending impeachment proceedings of the House Committee on the Judiciary. "I feel heavy about it at times. Yet there's that driving side of me that wants to be sure it's done right, that we have all the evidence. I want to do the right job and I've got to...I'm prepared for all the confrontations that involves. But there is an eerie, scary side of it. What happens if you find it? The ramifications?"
5/1974	"We Cannot Run," states Edward Mezvinsky in a Time magazine piece on his activities with the House Committee on the Judiciary and the ongoing impeachment proceedings.
5/30/1974	Leon Jaworski, the Watergate Special Prosecutor discusses his office's findings regarding the International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) scandal of 1972 with Congressman Pickle (TX). The investigation centered on whether ITT paid for the Republican National Convention meeting in 1972 in order to receive a dismissal of an anti-trust case being prepared by the Department of Justice. The correspondence eventually arrives to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
5/9/1974	Impeachment hearings against President Nixon begin in the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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5-6/1974	A comparison of White House and Judiciary Committee Transcripts are made available to the committee. Alexander Butterfield's admission to the existence of recorded conversations from the White House in July of 1973 set off a year long fight between President Nixon and Watergate investigators over who had rights to the tapes. The transcripts highlight the differences between the edited conversations President Nixon produced for investigators and the Judiciary Committee and the unedited versions that were eventually released.
6/15/1974	Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's book <i>All The President's Men</i> is released.
7/24/1974	The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rules that President Nixon must release unedited recordings of all the "Nixon Tapes" to the House Committee on the Judiciary. President Nixon had previously sent edited transcripts, but not the original recordings.
7/27/1974	The House Committee on the Judiciary passes three of five articles of impeachment against President Nixon. The charges include obstruction of justice, misuse of power, and contempt of Congress. The full House of Representatives never votes on impeachment.
8/9/1974	President Nixon resigns after being told by leading Republicans that impeachment is inevitable. Nixon becomes the first and only President to resign from office.
9/8/1974	President Ford grants a full and unconditional pardon to Richard Nixon.
5/14/1976	In a challenge to Nixon's pardon, Edward Mezvinsky and two other Judiciary Committee members write to William Hungate, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, asking for more information regarding Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon.