

DOC 5 - Why the Press will never have another Watergate Moment.

INTRO

* Context. 50th anniversary of the Watergate scandal which is considered for those who still believe in the press as a democracy's fourth branch of power as the epitome of a "golden age" of journalism.

* An opinion piece by W.P.'s columnist Margaret Sullivan would like to celebrate this "moment" but instead issues a bleak pessimistic appraisal of today's media environment to conclude that the downfall of a Nixon would be impossible today.

READING 10-14 (too short)
50-55.

I Celebrating the 50th ANNIVERSARY of Watergate scandal.

- a) Lots of coverage of landmark event → reminders
- b) Matters most for W.P.
- c) Matters for columnist personally (Inspiration)
- d) Contrast with today saddens her. NOSTALGIA of gone times even if she recognises the limits of media environment of 60-70s of last §.

As headline indicates, sets about explaining WHY.

II WHY DID the media contribute to bringing a president down?

- a) The investigation by the W.P.'s two star journalists was taken up by numerous papers that existed/thrived at the time → national → local

b) It was aired on several national television networks

c) ^{This coverage} contributed to raise public awareness significantly (media & government trusted)

III WHY is it IMPOSSIBLE TODAY?

- a) Draws parallel between 1973 Senate Hearings and 2022 Jan 6 House hearing
- Not as helpful as some as far as outcome is concerned

CAUSE

b) FRACTURATION of media environment and right-wing media (esp. Fox News) acting as echo chambers

SO

c) Republican officials, she suggests, get a distorted view of situation and won't A.C.T.