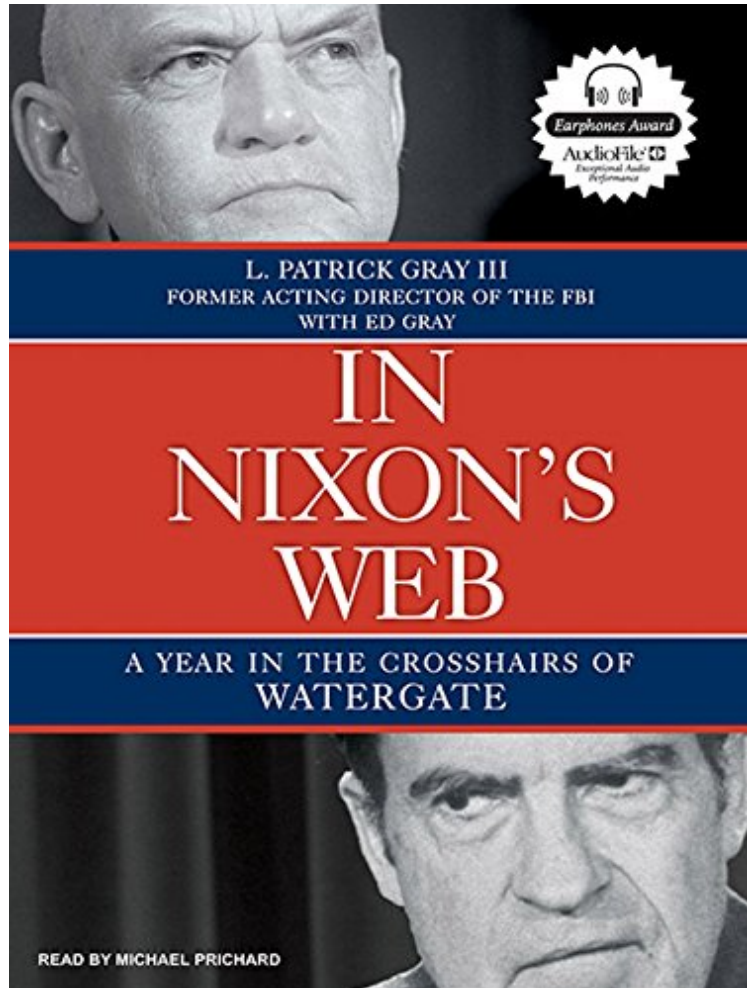


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## In Nixon's Web: A Year in the Crosshairs of Watergate

*Ed Gray, L. Patrick Gray III*

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#5294831 in Books III L Patrick Gray 2008-04-15 Formats: Audiobook, MP3 Audio, Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 1 7.40 x .60 x 5.30l, .20 Running time: 41400 seconds Binding: MP3 CD In Nixon's Web A Year in the Crosshairs of Watergate | File size: 48.Mb

**Ed Gray, L. Patrick Gray III : In Nixon's Web: A Year in the Crosshairs of Watergate** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Nixon's Web: A Year in the Crosshairs of Watergate:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A believable Watergate memoir By Robert A. Byrne In Nixon's Web, by the late L. Patrick Gray III, with Ed Gray (his son), is another memoir by a Watergate Era figure. I hesitate to call Gray (all uses of that name will refer to the elder) a "participant," as he was never convicted of any wrongdoing. Of course, neither was Nixon. Many of the major figures in Watergate have written memoirs, including G. Gordon Liddy, John Dean, Jeb Magruder, Bob Haldeman, John Erlichman, Maurice Stans, Nixon himself, and quite a few others. And there are plenty of books by journalists, experts, hacks, et al. Gray has come off poorly in most accounts and set out to

`set the record straight' (the name of Judge John J. Sirica's book on Watergate). To summarize, Gray was a successful naval man, actually commanding a submarine. He went to work for Nixon, was on a successful path at the Department of Justice and was selected by the President as acting director of the FBI upon the death of J. Edgar Hoover in 1972. It did not turn out to be the career move that he hoped for. It's no surprise to find that Gray was viewed as an outsider. Several inside the Bureau hoped to take over: especially Mark Felt. Gray relied heavily upon Felt and refused to believe White House accusations that the career FBI man was actually 'Deep Throat,' Woodward and Bernstein's secret informant. In fact, Felt's revelation that he was Deep Throat came only a few weeks before Gray's death from pancreatic cancer. The book offers "proof" that Felt could not have been the source, which is worth looking at, but not conclusive. I believe that Felt quite likely was providing information to Woodward, and that information that the reporter received from other sources was included under the Deep Throat moniker, in addition to Felt's stuff. Which would address Gray's objection. Presidential Counsel John Dean gave two files to Gray, in front of John Erlichman in the latter's office. The files were from E. Watergate burglar's E. Howard Hunt's White House office safe and Dean told Gray that they contained national security information, had nothing to do with Watergate and should "never see the light of day." Gray kept them for several months and then burned them. He felt that he had been ordered to do so with the President's tacit approval, via Erlichman's presence. Gray also provided FBI files on the Watergate investigation to Dean, which he felt obligated to do since the FBI was an executive office. Dean was "the desk manager" for the cover up. Uh oh. Unlike many of the memoirs I've read, Gray comes across as a man of integrity. Like other Watergate figures, he was used and tossed aside by Nixon. He was under extreme fire during his Senate Confirmation hearings to become permanent FBI director. While being told to his face that the White House supported him, behind the scenes they were stabbing him in the back. Erlichman was speaking of Gray when he said, "Well, I think we ought to let him hang there. Let him twist slowly, slowly in the wind." In typical Nixon fashion, one of his people would be sacrificed for the White House's own purposes. Gray was an outsider at the FBI, dealing with the after-effects of Hoover's reign of intimidation. And he was an outsider among Nixon's Palace Guard, sacrificed for self-preservation. Both the Watergate Special Prosecution Force and the Department of Justice investigated Gray, but all charges were dropped and he was exonerated of any wrongdoing. But Gray's legacy is tarnished by the accusations of John Dean and Woodward and Bernstein. He did destroy the Hunt files, which certainly appears naive, if not an obstruction of justice. But I would believe Gray's account of events before that of just about any other Watergate figure.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Addition to Watergate Scholarship By Paul M. Brown Just finished reading Nixon's Web, L. Patrick Gray III, who spent a tumultuous year as acting director of the FBI in 1972-73. Gray was an amazing guy and part of what has come to be known as America's "Greatest Generation." Born to humble beginnings in Texas, he had almost earned a degree at Rice University when he was accepted to the Naval Academy in 1936. Without any money to get to Annapolis, he convinced the master of a merchant vessel departing Galveston to take him to the east coast. (Along the way the master taught him celestial navigation, and he taught the master calculus.) Gray graduated from the Naval Academy in 1940, then served as a submariner in WWII. He later attended law school at Navy expense (Order of the Coif and law review at George Washington University) but he went back to submarines during the Korean War. By the late 1950s he was on the fast track to flag rank. But he left the Navy to campaign for Richard Nixon in 1960 and 1968 and came to Washington as a political appointee. After some time at HEW, he was appointed as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division at DOJ, the Deputy AG, and then Acting Director of the FBI when Hoover died in the spring of 1972. Gray had been on the job just a few weeks when the Watergate burglars were arrested, and the book describes the next year of his life, until he was forced to resign in May of 1973. Granted, it's a memoir (with some posthumous polishing by Gray's son) but the book makes a strong case Gray was an honest guy who was used by felonious White House staffers like John Dean and John Ehrlichman, who told him they wanted the Bureau to investigate Watergate vigorously while scheming at every turn to cover up what John Mitchell called "the horrors." The book also does a good job explaining how Gray was stabbed in the back by Bureau underlings who resented the appointment of an outsider (and a Department guy at that) to succeed Hoover. For example, they never told him about the so-called "Kissinger wiretaps," and they concealed from him the so-called "black bag jobs" continued even after Hoover ostensibly ordered the practice halted in 1966. But the memoir sometimes leaves the reader puzzled by Gray's inconsistent conduct. When Nixon arranges for Vernon Walters of the CIA to falsely tell Gray that his investigation of Watergate threatens to uncover Agency operations Gray goes along at first. But he's wary enough to check with DCI Dick Helms. After learning of Nixon's effort to use the CIA to throw the Bureau off the trail Gray orders full speed ahead on the investigation and calls Nixon for good measure. (Who, of course, has no choice with the tapes rolling but to agree that the Bureau should pull no punches.) But when Dean and Ehrlichman turn over to Gray documents from Howard Hunt's safe saying they are "national security files that have nothing to do with Watergate and should never see the light of day," Gray credulously takes them at their word and burns the documents at home. Why didn't he say "If the files are unrelated to Watergate than the Bureau has no interest in them." Why did he take custody of the files, knowing full well that this gave Dean and Ehrlichman cover in that they could say "the contents of Hunt's safe were turned over to the FBI?" So after finishing In Nixon's Web the reader sees Gray as the loyal Nixon subordinate with the naval officer's reverence for the chain of command juxtaposed

against Gray the savvy bureaucrat who followed Ronald's Reagan's advice to "trust but verify" long before the Gipper made the phrase famous. If you're a Watergate junkie this is a worthy addiction to your collection. It is a well-written and polished work in a way that many memoirs are not. The reproduced Bureau documents and Gray's handwritten notes are interesting to see. And the chapter at the end written by his son arguing Mark Felt could not have been Deep Throat, and citing as evidence interview 1972 notes taken by Bob Woodward that have only recently come to light is thought provoking. Finally, along side James Rosen's biography of John Mitchell, *The Strong Man*, Gray's effort marks the beginning of what might be called revisionist Watergate history. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An essential portrait By eclectic reader In Nixon's Web is a valuable source for Watergate junkies. It also provides new information about the Hoover-era FBI and the actions of old guard Hoover loyalists like Mark Felt. Finally, it fleshes out our picture of L. Patrick Gray who for too long has been portrayed as a cardboard villain in order to highlight the noble heroism of Deep Throat. The flesh and blood Mark felt comes off badly in Gray's telling. He was an inveterate leaker--not just to Woodward but to the New York Times and Time magazine as well. His leaks were not confined to Watergate but were aimed at discrediting Gray and his attempts to curb the tyrannical abuses of Hoover and his minions. Moreover, when confronted about the leaks, Felt lied and tried to direct suspicion at other, innocent parties. Ed Gray has also unearthed powerful evidence that Woodward overstated Felt's role and credited Deep Throat with information that came from other sources. The "Deep Throat as composite" theory is far from dead.

L. Patrick Gray III was the man caught in the middle of the Watergate scandal. He was a lifelong Republican, but Richard Nixon considered him a threat. Closing in on the conspiracy, Gray became the target of one of Watergate's most shocking acts Nixon's "smoking gun" attempt to have the CIA stop the FBI investigation. And when the U.S. Senate focused its attention on Gray in April 1973, the White House threw him to the wolves; John Ehrlichman famously advised that he be left to "twist slowly, slowly in the wind." This book is Gray's firsthand account of what really happened during his crucial year as acting director of the FBI, based on a never-before-published first-person account and previously secret documents. He reveals the witches' brew of intrigue and perfidy that permeated Washington, and he tells the unknown story of his complex relationship with his top deputy, Mark Felt, raising disturbing questions about the methods and motives of the man purported to be Deep Throat. Gray's book was completed and expanded by his son, journalist Ed Gray, who has supplemented the text with revelatory excerpts from documents, tape transcripts, and third-party accounts. Every other major figure has told his story, and now Patrick Gray's unique inside account will change the way we think about the crisis that destroyed the Nixon presidency. L. Patrick Gray III did not speak publicly about his role in Watergate for thirty-two years, breaking his silence only for one brief interview before his death in 2005. This book contains details and revelations about Watergate that have never been published before.

"A fast-paced, sometimes chilling insider's account of the desperate attempt to save a corrupt administration, without regard to whose lives were destroyed." ---Library Journal About the Author Ed Gray is a naturalist writer and cofounder, with his wife, Rebecca, of Gray's Sporting Journal. L. Patrick Gray III (1916-2005) was an American lawyer and government official who served as interim director of the FBI after the death of J. Edgar Hoover in 1972. Michael Prichard has recorded well over five hundred audiobooks and was named one of SmartMoney magazine's Top Ten Golden Voices. His numerous awards and accolades include an Audie Award and several AudioFile Earphones Awards. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Prologue April 26, 1973 White House Telephone, 5:56:17 p.m. PRESIDENT NIXON: All right. On the Gray thing, it seems to me that Gray, that you should have your meeting with Gray immediately, the three of you. Don't have him make a statement, however, until I don't know if he should even make one tonight. You know what I mean. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY PETERSEN: Yes. PRESIDENT NIXON: I'm not sure I would react that soon. I don't know, but at least that was Dick's feeling, that maybe we shouldn't act tonight. But under the circumstances with the destruction of the documents story, even though it was done with no venal intent, this is stupidity of an unbelievable degree. PETERSEN: I agree. PRESIDENT NIXON: And he'll have to resign. And who would be the best who is the second man over there? PETERSEN: Mark Felt's the second man at the Bureau. Let me say one thing, Mr. President. You know, I don't give a damn whether I get that job or not. PRESIDENT NIXON: I understand. PETERSEN: You know, I think, next to the presidency of the United States, it may be the toughest job in America. . . . I don't want to see anybody from the inside take that job. . . . PRESIDENT NIXON: It's got to be cleaned out. But my point is, my point is, this is not the time, this is not the time. I'm not ready to name Gray's successor. I'm still searching, you know. PETERSEN: I agree. . . . As I left my office on the evening of April 26, 1973, and walked down to the parking garage with my driver, Special Agent Tom Moten, neither of us spoke as we went down the steps. Tom held the silence as he pulled the Mercury out toward the officer on duty at the gate. At the gate the guard had none of his usual pleasantries, but instead hurriedly told me that Assistant Attorney General Henry Petersen had called and left word that it was urgent that I contact him. Getting out of the car, I thanked the guard and stepped into his shack to call Henry. Pat, he said, I just got a call from Dick Kleindienst. The president just called him and said that the story of your burning the Hunt files is going to be all over the news

tomorrow and he wants to get the story himself first. Dick is coming back into the office from Burning Tree and wants to meet with the two of us at seven. Word of Senator Lowell Weickers selected leaks was out. Fine, Henry, I replied. Ill go up to my office first, and Ill meet you in the AGs office at seven. I hadnt expected this activity until the next day, when I knew that the news stories would appear, but I was just as prepared to deal with it tonight as I would be the next day. Perhaps even more so. Shortly before seven I walked over to the attorney generals office. The main double doors were locked, so I went around through the circular alcove and foyer to his conference room, intending to use the key I had for that door. These doors, however, were open, so I walked through the conference room to the secretaries offices and picked up a telephone to call Henry and tell him I was there. Just at that moment I heard footsteps and I turned to see Dick Kleindienst striding into his office. I called Henry and told him that both the attorney general and I were in the office and that I would place a leather thong on the double doors so that he could come in that way. Henry said he would be right up. Then I walked into the attorney generals office. Without preamble, Dick went right to the heart of the matter. Pat, Ive been talking to the president about your burning of the Hunt files. The news inquiries are coming in thick and fast and the president wants a recommendation right now. Before I could respond, Henry Petersen came into the room, and Dick repeated what he had just told me. Henry didnt say anything, just nodded his head, and took a seat in one of the chairs in front of the attorney generals desk. Dick sat in his chair behind the desk and waved toward the remaining chair in front of me. It was clearly my turn to speak. The news stories are coming from Lowell Weicker, I told them. Both of their faces went blank. Ive already told Lowell the truth about the files, I went on. And this afternoon at about 2:30 the senator came over to my office to tell me that he had relayed the entire story to four of his handpicked journalist friends. He said I may hate him for leaking this story but that he did it in my own best interests. Kleindienst was visibly shaken. I think wed better go into my smaller office and have a drink, he said. So the three of us went into the attorney generals small private office where Dick and I took seats while Henry went to the cabinet and fixed drinks. I declined. I explained to them what I knew about the two files, which had come from the safe of E. Howard Hunt, one of the Watergate conspirators. Though I hadnt studied them in detail, it had been clear to me that they were copies of some sort of top-secret State Department cables, as well as some flimsy copies of muckraking correspondence about Senator Ted Kennedys car accident at Chappaquiddick in 1969. I told them both, again, that when White House counsel John Dean had given me the files in the presence of John Ehrlichman, the assistant to the president for domestic affairs, both men had assured me the files were in no way connected with Watergate and that they had national security overtones. When I asked Ehrlichman and Dean if these files should be placed in the FBI files Dean responded, These should never see the light of day. I took their statements at face value, so that when I actually went to burn the files I casually flipped through them and noted for myself that these indeed were not related in any way to our investigation of the break-in. All of this I had carefully laid out for Senator Weicker, and at this point, sitting in the attorney generals office with these two grim-faced men, I still fully expected that the news stories the next morning would be factual. Dick Kleindienst apparently knew better. Or perhaps he knew something else. Pat, he said, I dont see how you can remain acting director of the FBI. I dont agree, Dick, I replied. It will be perfectly clear that these files had nothing to do with Watergate. And certainly the people in the FBI know that I havent in any way tried to stifle the investigation. That may be true, Dick stated. But the timing of this just couldnt be worse. I think that the president will want you to step down. Henry was nervously pacing back and forth in the small office while Dick and I remained in our chairs. The three of us discussed the pros and cons of the newspaper stories that would appear the next day, and then Dick abruptly got up. Im going to telephone the president, he said, and he left the room. April 26, 1973 White House Telephone, 7:448:02 p.m. ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD KLEINDIENST: Henry and I are down here at my office with Pat Gray. . . . Let me give you his version of it before we discuss the ramifications of it and I describe his attitude. Several days after the apprehension of the Watergate burglars, he was asked to come over and met in John Ehrlichmans office with him, and there was Dean. Part of the conversation was with John Dean, Ehrlichman saying nothing. John Dean says, Pat, here are some highly sensitive and very secret files that were in the possession of Howard Hunt that had nothing to do with the Watergate case. They are of a very, very secret, sensitive nature. He did not describe their contents. They should not be put in the FBI files and they should never see the light of day. Here, you take them. Thats the substance of it. Pat took the documents from John Dean. Then he stayed there with John Ehrlichman. Ehrlichman said nothing about the documents, and they were talking about the apprehension and concern that you had about leaks from the FBI. Pat then left that office, went home, had a few trips to make, left them at home. When he came back on a Sunday night I think this occurred on a Thursday or a Friday. When he came back on a Sunday night, he then took the documents down to his office without looking at them, tore them into bits, put them in his burn basket, and they were destroyed. Thats Pats story. . . . PRESIDENT NIXON: He will not say that he was ordered to destroy them? KLEINDIENST: No. Pressed upon cross-examination as a result of what Dean said, he said that, I had to gather from Dean as being, you know, a representative of the President of the United States, that I had to just infer from his remarks that, since they were never to see the light of day, they were of such a highly sensitive nature, and could not be put in the FBI files, he just concluded himself he ought to destroy them. Now, thats quite a bit different, you know, than getting a specific direction, PRESIDENT NIXON: Yes. KLEINDIENST: I think if you know Pat as I do, you press him to the wall and Pat would say that the only fair inference that I could gain from

my conversation with John Dean with Ehrlichman present was that they had to be destroyed. He would not say PRESIDENT NIXON: It was Dean that told him this? KLEINDIENST: Yes, yes. But he would not say that he was specifically ordered to destroy them. . . . So now we are talking in this vein: Pat, if you testify before a grand jury, we all have to assume that thats going to go out and hit the streets. . . . So suppose that this very statement that you gave us, that you made public tomorrow. You just got the press in and said, this is what happened. What would that do with respect to your ability to look after, manage, the Federal Bureau of Investigation? He said it would be a disaster. So I said, Pat, thats where we are logically. If it should come out and indeed it is because of all the leaks that we have isnt that where we are? He feels that for him to resign is an admission of guilt of some kind. PRESIDENT NIXON: Right. KLEINDIENST: And I said, Pat, as far as I can see you havent done anything criminally wrong. But in light of all the facts and circumstances of the Watergate case PRESIDENT NIXON: His ability to conduct the office. KLEINDIENST: It creates just an impossible situation for you to manage that Bureau. And that is where we wound up before I called you, because I told him PRESIDENT NIXON: Right, I understand, I understand. KLEINDIENST: that I wanted to hes in the other room with Henry to report to you what he said and the context of it. Pat Gray, as you know, is a soldier and hes going to do any goddamn thing [you ask of him]. PRESIDENT NIXON: I know, I know. KLEINDIENST: Henry and I . . . feel and were trying to get across to Pat without just denuding him is hes got to resign. How do you want us to proceed tonight? PRESIDENT NIXON: But how would we do it? He should say nothing tonight. KLEINDIENST: Oh, Im not talking about tonight. Im trying to make a decision tonight. PRESIDENT NIXON: Yeah. . . . Henry was still pacing the floor, back and forth behind the leather chair I was in. My mind was going over the conversation we just had with the attorney general. Henrys pacing stopped. Pat, Im scared, he said. Of what? I asked. Well, it appears to me that you and I are expendable and Haldeman and Ehrlichman are to be saved. The import of what he said didnt hit me right away. I answered him casually. Henry, I think youre stretching the importance of this thing. Pat, he said, Im not kidding. Were in deep trouble here. I thought for a moment. There was one question I could ask that would put it in perspective. All right, Henry. All right. Then let me ask you point-blank: Do you think I ought to retain a lawyer? Yes, he said, I think you should. Now I knew Henry was offering me serious advice indeed, and yet I was not alarmed. Not as much as I should have been. But in my own analysis of the situation, I just could not see how I could be viewed as being liable to the point of requiring an attorney. I did know that men in the White House and in the Committee to Re-Elect the President had recently hired some of the best criminal lawyers in Washington, although many of them had not yet been indicted. I also knew, ever since John Ehrlichmans phone call to me on April 15, that John Dean had been talking to the federal prosecutors. And certainly I knew that destruction of evidence was obstruction of justice. But I knew that I was not involved with the Watergate wrongdoings. I knew that there had been nothing illegal in my dealings with John Dean, that I had dealt with him only in his official capacity as counsel to the president of the United States. And I knew that the files I had destroyed were most definitely not Watergate evidence. Furthermore, the files had been destroyed on the direct orders of John Ehrlichman, who was certainly acting for the president. I also knew Henry Petersen to be a thoroughly experienced federal prosecutor who was in charge of the governments investigation of Watergate. And now he was offering me serious advice as a friend. I had to listen. Okay, Henry, I said, but I dont know any criminal lawyers here in Washington. Arent all the good ones already taken up by all these other fellows? Who would you suggest? Pat, the best man you could find anywhere, and the man I would get for myself, is my good friend Stephen H. Sachs, over in Baltimore. He was an assistant United States attorney for the District of Maryland and then United States attorney for the same district for four years. Steve is an experienced prosecutor and an extremely competent attorney. He hates corruption. Hes also a warm and compassionate human being, and if you can convince him that youve done nothing wrong, then youll have a strong and very loyal advocate in your corner. Thanks, Henry, I said. I know Ive done nothing wrong. But if you think that I should do it, then Ill call Steve Sachs. I think you should do it, he said. At that point the attorney general came back into the small office. Well, Pat, he said, the president wants you to stay on as acting director. But there must be no implication of a cover-up at the White House in regard to the burning of the files. Dick, I said, I burned those files at the clear direction of Dean and Ehrlichman, and John Ehrlichman has known since April fifteenth that I carried out his orders. Theres nothing to cover up. By now it was nearly 8:30 and time to go home. The three of us closed the office and moved out into the hall. Henry Petersen was six or seven steps ahead in the broad Justice Department hallway and Dick Kleindienst and I were walking together. You know, Pat, he said suddenly, there are some things we will all have to take to our graves. We walked quietly a few more steps. Not I, I said to him. Not I. The next day, I resigned as acting director of the FBI. I had held the job for less than a year. What follows is the story of that year. Copyright 2008 by LPGIII Pages LLC. All rights reserved.