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Herbert Block and Nixon

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Introduction

Herbert Block was a political cartoonist who published many cartoons particularly during the time of the Nixon administration Watergate Scandal. These cartoons were able to show the feelings of Americans during the events of the Watergate Scandal during the 1970s. Block's political cartoons are great tools in displaying the feelings of the American people during this time period.

The trust of some Americans following the Nixon administration was shattered because of lies that came out during the Watergate Scandal. Groups of Americans whole heartedly trusted the government and believed elected politicians were doing things in their best interest. Events within the 1960s made some groups of Americans hesitant about the workings of the government and how truthful these politicians were being with the American population. The Watergate Scandal truly led people to believe that this was not the case within the American government system. Block's political cartoons can show how the people within America were feeling at the time of the Nixon Scandal. Some people had the idea that President Nixon would never betray the American people and were shocked when finding out the news that he had. People believed that Nixon was doing right by them when in office and was not involved or secrets to hide throughout his administration. When finding out this was not true it rubbed groups of Americans the wrong way and eventually led to a distrust of the government.

Since the American people had been let down time and time again by the government, they no longer had the same blind trust for the government. The American political system had let the American people down too many times and some people began to realize the corruption that was present within the country. Political cartoons like those illustrated by Block showed the feelings of groups of Americans following scandals and incidents within the American government specifically the Watergate Scandal. The Block Cartoons are important pieces in understanding the Watergate Scandal and the feelings it left behind for the American people. Block tells the story of distrust and betrayal that Americans were feeling at the time of the Watergate Scandal while also showing what Nixon was doing to try and cover things up for himself. The Watergate Scandal and Nixon's involvement left groups of Americans with a distrust for the government because of the betrayal and shock that came about during Watergate.



I'll Tell you Everything you need to know

This cartoon is titled "I'll Tell you Everything you need to know" by Herbert Block. The cartoon shows Nixon turning off the TV that says, "National Public Affairs Programs", while he is wearing a shirt that reads "Nixon Veto of Public Broadcasting Funds" as Nixon is speaking to a man who is very visibly angry and upset. Nixon appears to be extremely exhausted because of the bags under his eyes and is blocking the TV set that he is turning off showing that Nixon has something to hide. Nixon turning off the TV stands as a symbol of his knowledge of the Watergate burglaries and the bags underneath his eyes show his exhaustion of trying to hide this knowledge from the American people. This fatigue displayed shows that Nixon has been working double time to try and hide his guiltiness but also to try and keep himself out of trouble regarding the break-ins. Nixon blocking the TV also shows the block of information that Nixon put on the American people through his lies during the entirety of the Watergate Scandal. Block is trying to show the American people how Nixon was able to put up a front to the American and tell them "everything they needed to know"



Late Returns

This cartoon is titled "Late Returns" by Herbert Block. This cartoon shows two people in front of their television watching the Watergate hearings with a poster of Nixon winning the Presidency in 1972 on their wall. The two people drawn in this cartoon have very disappointed looks on their faces while watching these hearings. This cartoon shows the damage that was done through the Watergate Scandal. The news of Nixon being involved in the Watergate Scandal was a shock to the American people who were confident in their President to be telling the truth. As the hearings went on Americans slowly began to lose hope in their President and began to realize that he was after all involved and knowledgeable of the Watergate break-ins. The people in this cartoon are symbols of the disappointment that came out within America at the time of these hearings and the shock that President Nixon would betray the country like this.

References:

- Block, Herbert. "I'll tell you everything you need to know." Library of Congress. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, July 2nd, 1972. <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017658952>.
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