A major political scandal, occurred in the 1970s, the Watergate. It involved President Richard Nixon who decided to bug his opponents in order to spy and know their political ideas so that he could ensure his own re-election. This affaire led to a constitutional crisis. This crisis was the straw that broke the Camels back. It revealed a huge amount of illegal activities that involved the Nixon administration: e.g. “dirty tricks”, office bugging. This is the result of different power abuse originating from the Nixon administration.

The whole affaire started when five men were arrested for breaking into the DNC (Democratic National Committee) The Cash that was found on the burglars matched the money in Nixon’s slush fund for his Re-Election. But in 1973, and investigation followed by the testimony of some of Nixon’s staff revealed that Nixon had a tape recording system and that many conversations had been recorded.

After a long series of court battles, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ordered that the president was obliged to release the recordings to government investigators. The investigators agreed that the president had attempted to cover up the activities that took place after the break-in and use federal officials to deflect the investigation.

After having virtually faced a certain impeachment in the House of Representatives and by the Senate, Nixon resigned on August 9, in 1974. On September 8, 1974, he was pardoned by his successor, Gerald Ford.

This pardon was considered as if he was honouring an unknown act between, he and Nixon.