**III. Abuse of Presidential Power**

1. The Case
* **Watergate –**
* Located in the Watergate Apartments
1. Drive Toward Reelection
* Nixon lived with a constant fear of losing elections
* **Election of 1972 –**
* Wanted to gain an advantage by any means possible
1. The Plan
* Nixon wanted to break into the Watergate and photograph all important Democratic documents
* Also planned to bug their telephones
* **June 17, 1972 –**
* **Committee to Reelect the President (CREEP) –**
1. Let the Lies Begin
* Word of this leaks to the public
* Nixon quickly claims to have no knowledge of the break in
* American people believe Nixon and he won the largest Republican victory in history
1. Cover Up
* After the news of Watergate breaks Nixon destroys many documents
* Senate begins to investigate the Watergate Scandal
* Nixon addresses the nation telling them he did not attempt a cover-up
1. More Trouble for Nixon
* **1971-1972 –**
* Nixon claims: **“I am not a crook.”**
1. Fall of a President
* Nixon refused to give up his presidential tapes claiming it would violate national security
* Supreme Court forced Nixon to give up the tapes (*United States v Nixon)*
* House begins to write up impeachment charges
* **August 8, 1974 –**
* Speech watched by 85% of American households
* Avoids being the first President to be removed from office
1. Effects of Watergate
* **43%** -
* Leads to a general cynicism about public offices that continues to this day