

# JD Vance Gleefully Compares Himself to His Hero Nixon

WATERGREAT

-Cameron Adams, Reporter, Daily Beast, June 26, 2026

## The VP claimed the fact Watergate took down a president was “crazy.”

JD Vance has gleefully compared himself to disgraced former President Richard Nixon while downplaying the biggest scandal in U.S. political history.

Vance, 41, was not born when the investigations into five operatives connected to Nixon’s re-election campaign were arrested for burglarizing and wiretapping the Democratic headquarters in 1972.

It led to Nixon’s resignation during his second term in 1974.



U.S. Vice President JD Vance said Richard Nixon was a "political genius." Nathan Howard/REUTERS

However, on Thursday, Vance shared his admiration for the only U.S. president so far to have been forced to resign while speaking at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in California, promoting his new memoir, *Communion*.

Vance claimed that Nixon's legacy is currently "enjoying a bit of a renaissance," highlighting his diplomatic achievements in ending the Vietnam War and opening relations with China.

"If Watergate happened tomorrow, it would be like a 12-hour news story. The idea that it would have taken down a presidency is crazy," Vance stated.

He then made the bold claim, "If you look at the story of how the deep state took down Richard Nixon, it's not all that different from what the same groups of people, the same institutions tried to do to Donald Trump in the first Trump administration."



President Richard Nixon with the Watergate transcripts. Bettmann Archive/Getty Images

Vance also compared himself to the 37th president, whom he called a "political genius."

"Young senator, vice president, writes some bestselling books, is hated by the media," he said. "It kind of sounds like JD Vance. I've always liked Richard Nixon."

Nixon died in 1994 at the age of 81, four days after suffering a major stroke.



U.S. President Donald Trump and U.S. Vice President JD Vance salute in the Memorial Amphitheater during a Memorial Day event at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, U.S., May 25, 2026. Nathan Howard/REUTERS

Vance's comments blew up online on Thursday, as footage of his remarks was shared on social media.

*Pod Save America* host Tommy Vietor pointed out some of the crimes exposed by the journalists who uncovered the Watergate scandal.

"Thanks to Watergate, we know that Nixon's staff broke into his political opponent's HQ & Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office, and that Nixon himself approved obstructing justice to cover these crimes up, tried to use the IRS to punish enemies, and was cool with breaking finance law," Vietor [posted on X](#).

He added that Vance "sold his soul for power, so it's not remotely surprising that he is now fine with all of this stuff!"

One X [user said](#) Vance was "vice-signaling," adding that, "Politicians used to signal virtue, now they just signal vice. They signal how much they'll hurt the other side."

Award-winning crime author Don Winslow [said](#) Vance's comments were "So. F---ing. Revealing," while comedian Stacy Cay [noted](#), "The joke is that they're doing so many crimes now that nobody would care about Nixon."