

David Wise

co-author of *The Invisible Government*



**THE
POLITICS
OF LYING**

**Government
Deception,
Secrecy,
and Power**

Contents

Part I Deception

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 1 | The Politics of Lying | 3 |
| 2 | Remember the Alamo | 19 |
| 3 | The Anatomy of Deception | 33 |

Part II Secrecy

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 4 | Top Secret | 55 |
| 5 | "The President Is Sort of Outside the Law" | 88 |
| 6 | The President Leaks a Document | 117 |
| 7 | Secrecy, National Security, and the Press | 134 |
| 8 | The Case of the Colorado Tibetans | 163 |

Part III Misinformation

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----|
| 9 | The Selling of the Government | 181 |
|---|-------------------------------|-----|

Part IV The Press

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 10 | Nixon vs. the Press | 217 |
| 11 | Television | 248 |
| 12 | The Government and the Press: Leaks and Techniques | 278 |
| 13 | The President and the Press | 312 |

Part V A Conclusion

- | | | |
|----|---------------|-----|
| 14 | Summing Up | 341 |
| | Author's Note | 355 |
| | Chapter Notes | 361 |
| | Index | 401 |

Republic!

“Why has the government of the most powerful democracy in the world found it necessary to mislead its own people?”

The Politics of Lying is the first book to show how government deception, official secrecy, and misuse of power have caused an erosion of confidence between the people and their government—perhaps the single most important political development in America in recent years.

The Politics of Lying documents the way government deception is now supported by official secrecy, a vast public relations machine, and increasing pressures on the press. It reveals the workings of the secrecy system in unprecedented detail and discloses classifications that even Congress did not know existed.

Among its startling revelations:

The Nixon administration refused President Lyndon Johnson's request that his secret papers be declassified for his memoir, *The Vantage Point*, but LBJ used the documents anyhow.

There are security classifications *above* Top Secret, the very names of which are secret and shielded from Congress and all but a handful of persons in the government.

The CIA established a secret base in the Rocky Mountains where Tibetan guerrillas were trained to return home to fight against Communist China.

On orders from the President, eight men with little white identification cards would report to a rustic headquarters in Westminster, Maryland, to censor all U.S. news media.

A major American newspaper experienced extraordinary difficulty after it dared to run a series about President Nixon's closest friend, Charles (Bebe) Rebozo.

President Johnson personally approved the leaking to the press of two Top Secret

(continued on back flap)

(continued from front flap)

memos in an effort to destroy the image of Camelot and undermining Robert Kennedy's Presidential bid.

But *The Politics of Lying* is more than a news-filled narrative about government misinformation and secrecy. In dramatic detail the book uncovers secrets and discloses disturbing information certain to stir controversy and national debate. It is also a thoughtful analysis of the causes of government deception and of the reasons that Americans have come to feel frustrated, powerless, and distrustful of their elected leaders.

“An American President today operates within a new political framework,” David Wise writes. “He can no longer assume that a majority of the people will believe him . . .

“The consent of the governed is basic to American democracy. If the governed are misled, if they are not told the truth, or if through official secrecy and deception they lack information on which to base intelligent decisions, the system may go on—but not as a democracy. After nearly two hundred years, this may be the price America pays for the politics of lying.”

Jacket design by Muriel Nasser

Random House, Inc., New York, N.Y. 10022
Publishers of THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: the Unabridged
and College Editions, The Modern Library and
Vintage Books

Printed in U.S.A.
5/73



DAVID WISE is a political writer based in Washington. He is co-author of *The Invisible Government*, the book about the Central Intelligence Agency which became the nation's number-one best seller and was widely credited with bringing about a reappraisal of the role of the CIA in a democratic society. He is former chief of the Washington Bureau of the *New York Herald Tribune*. A native New Yorker and graduate of Columbia College, he joined the *Herald Tribune* in 1951, served as the newspaper's White House correspondent during the Kennedy administration and as chief of the Washington Bureau from 1963 to 1966. During 1970-71 he was a Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. With Thomas B. Ross, he is co-author of *The U-2 Affair* (Random House, 1962), *The Invisible Government* (Random House, 1964), and *The Espionage Establishment* (Random House, 1967). He has also contributed articles on government and politics to *The New York Times Magazine*, the *New Republic*, *Esquire*, and other national magazines. In 1969 he received the Page One Award of the Newspaper Guild of New York for best magazine writing. He is married and has two children.