

Corrupting The Political Prank

by Richard Tuck

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Now, to be perfectly clear, let's look at a real political prank. We'll call it the Chinatown caper. The basis was the unsecured loan Howard Hughes had made to Donald Nixon, the brother of the then-Vice President.

Nixon went to Chinatown and was met by the usual delegation - a Miss Chinatown, distinguished Chinese elders, and children bearing signs in English and Chinese. The English ones said, "Welcome Nixon." Nixon posed smiling for the TV cameras until an agitated Chinese elder whispered that the Chinese signs said, "How About the Hughes Loan?" Nixon, in a performance which would be outdone only by his final press conference, tore the signs from the children's hands and ripped them to shreds. It was all on the evening news.

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