

# The President Probes Himself



**Arthur Hoppe**

**T**HE PRESIDENT'S having a terrible time investigating himself. Such undertakings are never easy.

As you know, he spent more than a week trying to hire a "free and independent" Special Prosecutor to freely and independently investigate him. He wished to do this for the good of the country and before Congress beat him to it.

Unfortunately, Time magazine reported that he had to reject the very first applicant for "his political leanings." While Time didn't name this first choice, the following White House tape, found on the discount counter of The Snadley Klaberhorn Record Emporium, should make one thing perfectly clear.

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"**P**ULL UP a chair, son, and speak directly into the bud vase. Let me say I think you're just the young man I've been looking for. How would you like to freely and independently investigate me?"

"Gosh, sir, why me?"

"Well, son, you're a clean-cut, energetic, young lawyer without a blemish on your record. You had the good sense to marry extremely well. But, above all, it's your name. The polls show that when it comes to free and independent investigators, it's a name that inspires public confidence."

"Yes sir. I can see your point there."

"Fine. Now do you think, son, that you have the moral fiber to poke and probe into every nook and cranny of my life without fear or favor, let the chips fall where they may?"

"Yes, sir!"

"I mean, of course, without sticking your nose into my papers, tapes, friends, real estate transactions, campaign contributions and other matters that don't concern you. Now, what did you think about my handing over those tapes to Judge Sirica?"

"A brilliant move, sir. If those papers you turned over to the National Archives were worth a \$570,000 tax write off, those tapes should net you a cool million at the very least."

"Good thinking, son! You're hired."

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"**G**OLLY, that's great, sir. I've always loved investigating people ever since I was a member of Nader's Raiders."

"Nader's Raiders? Good grief! I'd forgotten you were once one of those radicals."

"But, sir, having been a Nader's Raider certainly makes me qualified to be a free and independent investigator."

"No, Ed, I'm afraid it makes you over-qualified. Well, give my love to Trish and, on your way out, do me a favor. Send David in."