

The Pearly Gate

By Art Buchwald

"Brothers and sisters of the Latter Day Disciples of the Church of Watergate, are you believers?"

"Amen, Richard. We believe."

"Do you believe I had nothing to do with Watergate and the coverup?"

"We believe, we believe."

"And do you believe I knew nothing about the milk fund, the ITT merger or the Howard Hughes \$100,000 donation?"

"Hallelujah, Richard. We believe."

"Now, brothers and sisters, I want to tell you about the tapes."

"Oh, tell us, Richard. Tell us about the tapes."

"There were supposed to have been nine tapes. But when I counted them there were only seven." Do you believe that?"

"Glory be, Richard. We believe it."

"Do you know why there were only seven?"

"We know, Richard, but tell us again."

"There were only seven because two did not exist. The tape ran out on one and the other was made on a phone that didn't have a recorder."

"Amen, Richard."

"Now would you believe I didn't know these tapes didn't exist until the weekend before I was supposed to turn them over to the courts?"

"We believe it, Richard. Bless you!"

"I know some people say I'm a sinner . . ."

"No, Richard, you're not a sinner. We're sinners because we didn't believe you."

"And I know some people say I'm a crook . . ."

"Only the devil would say that, Richard."

"And they say I didn't pay any income taxes, brothers and sisters . . ."

"Who said that, Richard?"

"And they say I made money on my land in Key Biscayne and San Clemente . . ."

"Amen."

"But let me tell you, brothers and sisters, when the record is out in the open . . . when the tapes are heard . . . when my side of the story is told then you will know who the sinners are!"

"We'll wait, Richard."

"Now I know you're going to ask me about the 18 minutes missing from one of the tapes."

"Tell us, Richard, about the 18 minutes."

"Would you believe I don't know what was on those 18 minutes missing from the tape?"

"We believe."

"Do you believe I'm being crucified by television and the press?"

"Say it isn't so, Richard."

"And would you believe those who don't want to crucify me want to impeach me?"

"Oh Lordy, Lord, we believe."

"But, brothers and sisters, I am not going to quit."

"Let's all clap hands."

"Do you know why I'm not going to quit?"

"Tell us, Richard, Tell us why."

"If I told you, you wouldn't believe me."