

we were in an all-out war. As tour manager of the campaign, I had countless talks with Nixon about the jeering and heckling that drowned him out at rallies. The press sometimes reported that Nixon coolly refused to let the shouting bother him, but in the privacy of his cabin on the airplane it was obvious that he was extremely upset by the opposition's tactics.

His solution was to order me to have the Secret Service rough up the hecklers. But I assured him that our Service detail, with whom I worked very closely, would not risk the charge that it had stifled "legitimate political dissent." So, as an alternative, Nixon wanted me to create some kind of flying goon squad of our own to rough up the hecklers, take down their signs and silence them. At times my advance man would report that a local police department, sympathetic to Nixon, had offered to ensure our freedom from hecklers. We always accepted such offers—in fact, we sometimes solicited them. If local police wanted to give the bum's rush to screamers and chanters, they were shown our gratitude. Occasionally, we would even pay cash money for that kind of help. In 1968, especially in October, the disruptions became so constant and boisterous that we considered canceling our remaining public rallies. But we decided we couldn't do that; those were the events which produced much of our television news coverage. Instead, when the event was important, we went to elaborate lengths to screen those attending.

Ed Morgan, surely the wittiest and most resourceful of all our advance men, devised a screening system that should find its way into campaign annals as the best of its kind. The Nixons and the Agnews were scheduled to gather on the platform of Madison Square Garden for a nationally televised rally of gigantic importance on October 31, 1968. The Nixon campaign was paying a fortune to buy the network television time and another fortune for promotional advertising to attract a huge TV audience. The word came loud and clear: there was to be *no* heckling on *our* paid television time in *our* rented arena. It was up to the campaign staff to ensure that the TV viewer saw only wild enthusiasm.

I delegated the problem to Ed Morgan and offered him the help of any of the campaign tour staff. He chose six of our most experienced men to work with him. He moved them into New York and spent ten days setting up The Great Madison Square Garden Rally Scam.

Admission was to be by ticket only. Morgan had thousands of extra tickets printed and distributed; the only way to be sure the press would