

**Richard Nixon - The Forgotten
Campaign - II**

Lead: In 1962, Richard Nixon nearly aborted his political comeback.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: After losing to John Kennedy in 1960 Richard Nixon ran for Governor of California. He did not want the job, Pat Nixon did not want him to run, but his supporters were clamoring and he loved politics like air and water. The campaign had no high point. It was characterized by smear, innuendo, charge and counter

charge on both sides. He ran against a dull but popular incumbent, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, and from the beginning Nixon faced two serious questions, neither of which he answered very well. First, that he was simply using California as a steppingstone to run for the White House in 1964. In fact, he was not. He knew running against the popular incumbent Jack Kennedy would be political suicide, but his denials were unimpressive.

The second question was that his brother Donald had received a sweetheart loan from the reclusive billionaire and defense contractor Howard Hughes, a loan which was never paid back. Nixon did not benefit

from this loan but it looked bad and his dismissals didn't ring true. The real reason Nixon lost by 300,000 votes out of six million cast was that the Cuban Missile Crisis united the country behind the President and many Democratic candidates nationwide, including Pat Brown, got the benefit.

Nixon was exhausted, horrified that he had lost, and irritated at the bad deal he thought he had received at the hands of the press. He let loose at a Press Conference the morning after the election:

...as I leave you I want you to know, just think how much you are going to be missing, you don't have Nixon to kick

*around anymore, because, gentlemen,
this is my last press conference.....*

**Not quite. People who wrote him off
after that did not know Richard Nixon.**

**At the University of Richmond, this
is Dan Roberts.**

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Resources

Ambrose, Stephen E. *Nixon: The Education of a Politician, 1913-1962.* New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1987.

Nixon, Richard Milhous. *The Memoirs of Richard Nixon.* New York, NY: Grosset & Dunlap, 1978.