

In The Arena: A Memoir of Victory, Defeat, and Renewal / [scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com)

by Richard Nixon

Thanks to Gavin Herbert and a group of volunteers from USC, La Casa Pacifica's grounds were beautiful almost beyond description. I said to Gavin, It is good to be back in a house of peace.

But it was only a lull before a storm. The following day, the blows began to fall again. The special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, had been delighted when Al Haig informed him of my decision to resign. He thought it would be in the best interests of the country. Haig reported to me that based on his conversation, he did not believe we would continue to suffer harassment by the special prosecutor. He had not reckoned with the young activists on Jaworski's staff. Far from being satisfied by the resignation, their appetites for finishing the injured victim were whetted. When Ed Cox urged me not to resign, he had warned me that this might happen. He had known several of Jaworski's staff at the Harvard Law School and had served with some in the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York. He said, I know these people. They are smart and ruthless. They hate you. They will harass you and hound you in civil and criminal actions across the country for the rest of your life. He was right. They were following the dictum of the nineteenth-century Russian revolutionary Sergey Nechayev: It is not enough to kill an adversary. He must first be dishonored.

One after another, the blows rained down.

I resigned from the Supreme Court, California, and New York bars. The Supreme Court and California accepted my resignation. The New York Bar Association refused to do so and instituted disbarment proceedings.

Scores of lawsuits were filed against me by individuals who were seeking damages for assorted government actions. Few involved Presidential decisions. Most were dismissed, but all had to be defended.

The cost for attorneys' fees was staggering. In the fifteen years since I resigned the Presidency, I have spent over \$1.8 million in attorneys' fees to defend myself against such suits and to protect my rights that were threatened by government action.

The Supreme Court ruled against me on my suit to gain possession of my papers and tapes, including those that were private.

A scandal magazine printed letters that I was supposed to have written to a countess in Spain whom I had never met. They were obvious forgeries, but the story was never retracted.

The pounding in the newspapers and on television continued unrelentingly. I was the favorite butt of jokes on the talk shows. Hundreds of columns attacked me. A number of anti-Nixon books were published. Those by critics I understood. Those by friends I found a bit hard to take.