

GREEN REVISIONS: 8/26/99
YELLOW REVISIONS: 8/24/99
PINK REVISIONS: 8/20/99
BLUE REVISIONS: 8/18/99

THE WEST WING

"Five Votes Down"

Teleplay by
Aaron Sorkin
Story by
Patrick Caddell
and
Lawrence O'Donnell, Jr.

Directed by
Michael Lehmann

First Draft

August 9, 1999

THE WEST WING

"Five Votes Down"

CAST LIST

PRESIDENT JOSIAH BARTLET
LEO McGARRY
JOSH LYMAN
SAM SEABORN
TOBY ZIEGLER
C.J. CREGG
MADELINE HAMPTON

CHARLIE
CATHY
MRS. LANDINGHAM
BONNIE
DONNA MOSS
MARGARET
LAURIE *

NEWSCASTER #1
NEWSCASTER #2
NEWSCASTER #3

VOLUNTEER
COCKTAIL WAITRESS
THREE FEMALE GROUPIES
SECRET SERVICE AGENT
JENNY McGARRY
LEELA RADNER (formerly
Reynolds)
CONGRESSMAN KATZENMOYER
REPORTER
CHRISTOPHER WICK
CONGRESSMAN MARK RICHARDSON
JANEANE
HOYNES
TILLINGHOUSE

THE WEST WING

"Five Votes Down"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

CAPITOL HILTON
BALLROOM
CORRIDOR
ANOTHER CORRIDOR
KITCHEN

LEO'S HOUSE

WHITE HOUSE

Roosevelt Room
Toby's Office
Mrs. Landingham's Office
Corridor
The West Wing Lobby
Josh's Bullpen Area
Leo's Office
Press Briefing Room
Mural Room
Josh's Office
Hoynes' Office
Oval Office
Bullpen

THE CAPITOL BLDG
KATZENMOYER'S OFFICE

LEO'S CAR

LEO'S HOUSE

BASEMENT CORRIDOR AT OEOB

EXTERIORS

CAPITOL HILTON - NIGHT

LEO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY/NIGHT
(EST)

THE CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

THE REFLECTING POOL - LATE
AFTERNOON

LEO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HOYNES' OFFICE TERRACE - DAY

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

WASHINGTON - NIGHT (EST)

Important Note

This draft contains language which is obviously unsuitable for network broadcast. It is intended only for the use of the director, producers, cast, crew and staff of *The West Wing*. Any and all inappropriate language will be altered or deleted prior to photography.

--AS

TEASER

SUPERTITLE:

Against a BLACK SCREEN, we SEE the word:

MONDAY

And underneath, we HEAR the sound of four or five-hundred people in a banquet room LAUGHING.

BARTLET (VO)

...he came in, put down his briefcase and said, "Bess, tell me something: Why is it only the sonsabitches know how to lick a stamp?"

There's more LAUGHTER that turns into APPLAUSE as we:

FADE IN:

1

INT. CAPITOL HILTON/BALLROOM - NIGHT

1

The place is filled with black-tie and evening gown clad Democrats who've paid \$500 a plate to hear the President speak, and from the energy in the room, Bartlet's been giving them their money's worth. TOBY, JOSH, SAM, C.J., MANDY and CHARLIE, all appropriately dressed, stand unobtrusively off to the side or in back.

BARTLET, the son of a Minister, knows how to work it; Especially when he's preaching to his own crowd, which is what he's been doing for the last 45 minutes.

LEO, TOBY, SAM, MANDY, JOSH, C.J., CHARLIE and a couple dozen others are standing backstage. We SEE LEO, who's found a corner, in an intense conversation on his cell phone.

*
*
*

LEO

(into phone)

How did it happen?

(beat)

How did the wheels come off this thing?

*
*
*
*
*

A VOLUNTEER "SHH"'s LEO--

*

LEO points to JOSH and motions for him to come over.

*

BARTLET

Folks, you gotta write a letter.

*
*

LEO

(to JOSH)

We lost five votes.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

What?

*
*

VOLUNTEER

Ssh.

*
*

LEO

We lost five votes.

*
*

JOSH

Gimme names.

*
*

LEO

I don't know yet. Get on the phone.

*
*

BARTLET

You gotta pick up a phone, you gotta call Western Union. You gotta call your Congressman and say, "Sir, Madam, I've got a friend whose friend is dead. I've got a friend whose neighbor is dead. Whose husband is dead, whose mother is dead. Kids are dead, kids are dead, and I wanna know how you're gonna vote on Wednesday, so that I know how I'm gonna vote in November," you gotta ask 'em.

*

A huge round of APPLAUSE. BARTLET lets the applause die down until there's nothing but silence, making sure the stage is nice and set for the ramp-up to the final crescendo.

BARTLET

I had a Civil Procedure professor once
who said this:

TOBY

(to himself)

Take a beat. There you go.

BARTLET

He said when the law is on your side,
argue the law. When the facts are on
your side, argue the facts. And when
you don't have the facts on your side
and you don't have the law on your
side, bang your fist on the defense
table as loud as you can.

There's a big LAUGH from the audience, only this time,
Bartlet doesn't wait for it to die out, instead grabbing the
apex and using it to catapult himself home; whipping the
crowd into a sustained and overwhelming standing OVATION.

BARTLET

(shouting over the crowd)

Well folks, we've got the law! We've
got the facts! The gun lobby's banging
their fist on the table! We're not
listenin'! We're not buyin' it! We're
gonna win on Wednesday! We're gonna
win on Wednesday! God bless you all,
God bless America!

And a brass/Dixieland band breaks into, "HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE
AGAIN," as BARTLET waves to the crowd and shakes hands with
several people on the dais.

The entourage, which now includes several bigwigs and the
appropriate compliment of SECRET SERVICE AGENTS begins the
brisk walk through the underground catacombs of the hotel and
out onto the street.

*
*

2

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

2

The CHEERING and the MUSIC can still be heard as the group walks quickly. They're in groups of two and three, separated on the walk by only a few feet, but they can't necessarily hear each other's conversations. Every few yards or so, event volunteers and hotel employees lining the corridors will applaud or shout "Go get 'em, Mr. President," "Bravo," "We love you," etc. LEO and JOSH bring up the rear, both of them talking on cell phones. SAM and TOBY are walking together.

SAM

Nice job.

TOBY

Yeah. *

SAM

You didn't like it? *

TOBY

I thought it was fine. *

SAM

I thought it was a hell of a lot better than fine. *

TOBY

It was good. *

SAM

It was outstanding. *

TOBY

He blew the D-Section. *

SAM

Toby, they're still on their feet cheering. *

TOBY

It was fine. *

C.J.

(calling out)

Sam. Nice goin'.

SAM

Tell him. *

C.J.

Why? *

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

'Cause Sam wrote two and a half
paragraphs and I wrote 37 pages.

*
*
*

C.J.

Still--

*
*

TOBY

He blew the D-Section.

*
*

C.J.

I thought it was lovely.

*
*

TOBY

Why do you say these things to me?

*
*

They turn onto--

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

C.J.

Just to see your face turn that
color.

*

JOSH

C.J.--

JOSH grabs C.J. and pulls her to him as they walk.

C.J.

Your little fan club was out in full
force tonight.

JOSH

They like me in a tux.

*

C.J.

Do you think I have an unusually large
neck?

*

*

*

JOSH

What the hell--

*

*

C.J.

I'm just asking 'cause--

*

*

JOSH

Stop talking.

*

*

C.J.

What's up?

*

*

JOSH

I want you to look calm while I'm
telling you this.

*

C.J.

Telling me what?

JOSH

We lost five.

C.J.

What do you mean?

JOSH

802. Five votes jumped the fence.

C.J.
(louder than she wanted)
Are you kidding me?!

JOSH
And a nice job looking calm. *

C.J.
(hissed through her teeth)
Are you kidding me?

JOSH
Leo just got off the phone with the
Whip. The last nose count put us
five down.

C.J.
What the hell happened?

JOSH
We don't know.

C.J.
Gimme names.

JOSH
We're finding out.

LEO
(calling)
Josh--

JOSH heads back to where LEO is in the pack as SAM moves to MANDY.

SAM
Hi.

MANDY
Hi.

SAM
"Happy Days Are Here Again"?

MANDY
He likes it.

SAM
Who?

MANDY
The President.

SAM
We try and avoid having the President
make aesthetic decisions.

MANDY
I made the decision.

SAM
Right, and I don't want to step
on your toes, but you may wanna
re-think marrying the line, "Kids
are dead. Kids are dead," to "Happy
Days are Here Again."

MANDY
It's optimistic.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

I'll say.

BARTLET

Where's Toby? Toby!

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

TOBY catches up to BARTLET...

BARTLET
What'd you think?

They turn a corner into--

4 INT. HOTEL KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

4

TOBY
I thought my work was outstanding,
Mr. President.

BARTLET
I'd imagine you would, Toby.

TOBY
Thanks for asking. I couldn't help
but notice that you got a little
extemporaneous with the D-section.

BARTLET
You noticed that, didya?

TOBY
Yes sir, I did.

BARTLET
I did a little polish, right there
on my feet.

TOBY
Yes, indeed.

BARTLET
I looked to the side, I expected to
see you comin' at me with a salad
fork.

TOBY
Well, but for the Secret Service
agents restraining me, sir--

BARTLET
Ah, God bless the Secret Service.

TOBY
Bless their hearts.

They slam through a fire door and into--

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The corridor is vacant except for a BARTENDER and a COCKTAIL WAITRESS in a dimly lit alcove. The cocktail waitress has a few buttons unbuttoned on her blouse, and the sound of the door slamming open and the sight of the President and his entourage flying at them has them a little startled.

COCKTAIL WAITRESS

Oh my God.

BARTLET

Hey, she deserves a nice room
and some dinner there, fella.

The BARTENDER is speechless as the GROUP whisks by.

TOBY

You like doing that, don't you.

BARTLET

Yeah. Charlie--

CHARLIE hustles to his side.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

What'd you think of the speech?

CHARLIE

Me?

BARTLET

Yeah.

CHARLIE

I thought--

TOBY

He means the text of the speech,
Charlie. Discounting the little
improv on the D-section.

BARTLET

I mean the entire speech, Charlie, and
most particularly its execution.

CHARLIE

I thought it was excellent.

(CONTINUED)

— FIVE VOTES DOWN —

BARTLET/TOBY

(to each other)

See?

TOBY

Hey--

BARTLET

I think what Charlie's trying to say is that, in this case, the singer outdistanced the song.

TOBY

I think what I heard Charlie say was that this speech was user-proof, although you certainly did your level best to disprove that in the D-section.

BARTLET

You're what my mother calls a pain in the ass, you know that?

TOBY

That's what my mother calls it too.

A SECRET SERVICE AGENT opens a door and we immediately HEAR the CHEERS from the street as the move out into

6

EXT. CAPITOL HILTON - CONTINUOUS

Capitol Grand

6

Police barricades hold back onlookers who are clapping away and popping off flashbulbs with their Instamatics. The eyes of the Secret Service Agents dart the crowd. The door of the President's limo is held open and the flashing red LIGHTS from the motorcade can be seen in the near distance. The GROUP hangs back a little as BARTLET takes a moment to shake a few hands before CHARLIE eases him toward the car. We HEAR the hiss and crackle of dozens of walkie-talkies.

CHARLIE

(easing him toward
the car)

Mr. President...

BARTLET

Charlie, did my wife call?

CHARLIE

The First Lady called at 8:40, sir. She wished you luck, and told me to tell you to take your back medicine. I have it here.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

My back's fine. Those pills make me
a little goofy.

CHARLIE

Mrs. Bartlet seemed quite adamant,
Mr. President. I'd have to describe
her tone as--

BARTLET

Oh, you don't have to describe her
tone, Charlie, I've been married to it
for 28 years.

CHARLIE

Sir, I don't want to get in trouble
with--

BARTLET

Gimme the pills. Have a good night,
I'll see you in the morning.

CHARLIE

Yes sir.

BARTLET gives a final wave as he gets in the car. Once this happens, the GROUP starts heading toward the various sedans that are waiting for them as part of the motorcade. As the GROUP is passing the police barricades...

THREE FEMALE GROUPIES

(shouting over the noise)

WE LOVE YOU, JOSH!

JOSH

(shouting)

Thanks!

C.J.

(shouting)

It helps not to know him!

SECRET SERVICE AGENT

Here we go. Movin' out!

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT I

FADE IN:

7 **EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT** 7 *

MANDY (VO) *

These are awfully good dumplings. *

8 **INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - NIGHT** 8 *

MANDY, C.J., TOBY and SAM, still dressed from the function, are having late night Chinese take-out and beer. LEO and JOSH work their cell phones at the far end of the table. *

C.J. *

(calling over) *

Leo, your food's getting cold. You want me to bring it over? *

LEO holds up his hand and indicates that he'll be one more moment while--

MANDY *

Seriously, I've never had dumplings quite this good. *

JOSH *

(calling over) *

Isn't my food getting cold, too? *

C.J. *

We ate your food. *

MANDY *

C.J., you gotta try this. *

C.J. *

Thanks. Try some of the this. *

(CONTINUED)

They start eating off each other's plate.

TOBY

Here it comes.

C.J.

Mm, Sam you gotta try the General Cho's
Chicken.

*
*

MANDY

And the Kung Pao Chicken.

*

C.J.

With the sauce.

*

MANDY

You gotta try it with the sauce.

SAM

That's delicious.

C.J.

You didn't try it with the sauce.

TOBY

Could the two of you shut up.

MANDY

(to TOBY)

You wanna try Spicy Crispy Beef?

*

TOBY

I'm very happy with the food I've got.

LEO's come over--

C.J.

(to LEO)

Botrell?

*
*

LEO

It's not Botrell. I've only got two,
but Botrell isn't one of 'em.
Katzenmoyer and Wick.

MANDY

I coulda called that.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Sam, could you slide me a soda, please. *

JOSH has gotten off the phone and comes over.

JOSH

Everybody's someplace else right now,
all I got was O'Bannon.

LEO

I didn't get O'Bannon, that's three.

JOSH

Who'd you get?

SAM

Katzenmoyer and Christopher Wick.

JOSH

Chris Wick?

LEO

Yeah.

JOSH

That's gotta be a mistake, who'd you
talk to?

LEO

Lee Tamaki and the Minority Whip.

JOSH

They've got bad information. There's
no way Chris Wick jumps the fence.

LEO

The President just told a ballroom
full of people and anyone who reads
a newspaper that we're gonna pass
802 on Wednesday. We got a 72 hour
fight.

TOBY

How do we do this without making noise?

MANDY

What do we care about noise?

LEO

There are two things in the world
you never want to let people see how
you make 'em: Laws and sausages.

(CONTINUED)

MANDY

Got it. First of all, obviously, don't involve the President.

LEO

Absolutely, this is us. C.J., what's the press room gonna be talking about the next few days?

C.J.

Financial Disclosure.

TOBY

It's that time again?

C.J.

It's that time again.

JOSH

What are you worth there, Toby?

TOBY

I own this tuxedo and I've got 23 bucks in my pocket.

MANDY

That's good.

LEO

Financial Disclosure it is.

MANDY

(pointing at TOBY)

No, I mean that's good.

JOSH

She's right. Words you won't hear come out of my mouth too often.

TOBY

What'd I miss?

MANDY

C.J., feed 'em human interest. Not just, "Look, we're disclosing assets." People are gonna love reading about how much money you guys have, especially when they find out you don't have any.

TOBY

This is a pretty humiliating way to take one for the team, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)

MANDY

They're gonna love you for being broke,
Toby.

TOBY

I've found that. I've found women
especially can't get enough of my
1993 Dodge Dart.

LEO

How do we get the votes?

SAM

Setting aside Christopher Wick--and
I agree with Josh, I think someone's
getting that wrong--Katzenmoyer and
O'Bannon I buy, I'm gonna guess the
other two are Tillinghouse and
LeBrandt, that's what we're gonna
hear tomorrow morning. The two of them
are gonna vote together on this,
so we only need to get to one, but
whether it's Tillinghouse or
LeBrandt--and it should be
Tillinghouse--we're gonna need help.

JOSH

Yeah.

LEO

Who?

SAM

You're not gonna like it.

LEO

Who?

SAM

The Vice President.

LEO

No way.

JOSH

Leo--

LEO

No way.

JOSH

The Vice President and Tillinghouse--

(CONTINUED)

LEO
I'm not using Hoynes.

MANDY
Actually, Leo, I have to say--

LEO
What time do you have? My watch says
two o'clock.

SAM
It's two o'clock.

LEO
(grabbing his coat)
Did somebody pay for this?

MANDY
I got it.

LEO
Make sure you turn in a receipt. I've
gotta go home. Toby, Sam: Beautiful
work.

SAM
Thanks.

TOBY
(gesturing to SAM)
Two and a half paragraphs.
(gesturing to himself)
37 pages.

LEO
G'Night.

LEO's out the door...

MANDY
Josh, did you try the Crispy Spicy
Beef?

TOBY
(to MANDY--confiscating)
Gimme the fork.

MANDY
Toby--

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

TOBY
 Give it to me.

CUT TO:

EXT. LEO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A hired sedan pulls up front. LEO gets out of the back and taps on the window by way of saying goodbye to his driver, then heads up his front walk, where he picks up some newspapers on his way to the door.

INT. LEO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LEO comes in the front door. Almost as soon as he does, the downstairs lights are turned on from upstairs. LEO's wife, JENNY MCGARRY, a beautiful woman in her late 40's, comes down the stairs. *

 LEO
 I didn't mean to wake you.

 JENNY
 I heard the car pull up.

 LEO
 You should go back to sleep.

 JENNY
 Where've you been?

 LEO
 What do you mean?

 JENNY
 The event was over at ten-thirty,
 I thought you were gonna come right
 home.

 LEO
 I'm really sorry, Jenny.

 JENNY
 What happened?

 LEO
 We're five votes short on 802.

 JENNY
 What can you possibly do about that
 at two o'clock in the morning that
 you can't do at normal--

(CONTINUED)

LEO

I can do things, Jenny, I wake people up. I meet with key staff. It's a long work day sometimes and I'm sorry if--

JENNY

I'm Associate Director of the American Red Cross, Leo, don't talk to me like I spend my days eating bon-bons and--

LEO

That's not what I meant, Jen.

JENNY

Come to bed.

LEO

I'll be right up.

JENNY starts back up the stairs. LEO notices a small gift-wrapped box sitting on top of the bar.

LEO

(holding up the box)
What's this?

JENNY

A wristwatch.

LEO

For me?

JENNY

Yeah.

LEO

From you?

JENNY

Yeah.

LEO

For what?

JENNY

Our anniversary.

There's a long silence before...

LEO

(quietly).
Jenny...

(CONTINUED)

JENNY

Come to bed.

LEO watches as JENNY disappears up the stairs. He puts the gift back down on the bar. He stands still a moment, then takes a bottle of club soda, opens it and pours it into a glass as we

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE:

TUESDAY

FADE IN:

11 **EXT./EST THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY**

11

RADNER (VO)

It's unusual, though, don't you think?

CUT TO:

12 **INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - DAY**

12

TOBY's sitting behind his desk while LEELA RADNER an attorney from the White House questions him.

TOBY

I honestly couldn't say.

RADNER

I'm saying only owning one stock issue.

TOBY

Yes.

RADNER

It's pretty unusual.

TOBY

And I'm saying I really couldn't say. I have no background or education in the stock market. I'm a speech writer.

RADNER

You're the Communications Director, Toby, you can't tell me you have no understanding of--

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

I can tell you, Leela. Ask the Treasury Secretary, ask the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, I'm a total novice at--

RADNER

Toby--

TOBY

I never owned a share of stock until last year.

RADNER

What made you buy the stock?

TOBY

I use their web site, I like the company.

RADNER

Five thousand dollars worth?

TOBY

That's right.

RADNER

And now the stock is worth a hundred and twenty-five thousand.

TOBY

Leela, I'm as surprised as anybody. I didn't know until the accountant called your office.

RADNER

Did you know that 71% of that increase came the day after Cal Poly Professor Theodore McGreggor testified to the Commerce Committee on the future of internet stocks?

TOBY

Of course I didn't. I'm telling you, I wasn't paying attention to--

TOBY's interrupted by CATHY, who knocks and pops her head in.

CATHY

Excuse me, Toby. Sam says they've got all five.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY
Tillinghouse?

CATHY
Yeah.

TOBY
Thanks.

CATHY exits.

RADNER
The White House Counsel's office
is gonna want to--

TOBY
Leela--

RADNER
Toby, you were the one who arranged
for McGreggor to testify in front
of Commerce in the first place.

TOBY
Ted McGreggor was my college roommate
and he's a very well-respected--

RADNER
I understand, but market analysts
widely attribute the jump in technology
stocks to the testimony of, among
others, your college roommate. Are
you telling me you didn't know what
he was gonna say to the committee?

TOBY
I'm telling you that not only didn't
I know what he was going to say to
the committee and not only didn't I
care what he was going to say to the
committee, if he had sat in my office
while I typed-up his testimony for him,
I wouldn't have understood what he
was going to say to the committee.

LEELA looks at TOBY for a moment...

RADNER
Toby. Friend to friend. You know that
manipulating the stock market, or
trying to, or conspiring to manipulate
the market in any way is a Federal
crime, right?

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

Leela, are you saying I should be
talking to a lawyer?

RADNER

Toby, I'm saying you're talking to one
right now.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

13 INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - DAY

13

MRS. LANDINGHAM is on the phone as JOSH and SAM exit a meeting in mid-conversation.

JOSH

What's the range of what we're talking about.

MRS. LANDINGHAM

(putting her hand over the receiver)

Congratulations, Josh.

JOSH

Thanks, Mrs. Landingham.

SAM

What's she congratulating you on?

JOSH

I don't know.

SAM

What's the range?

14 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

14

JOSH

Yeah.

SAM

Votes are expensive. O'Bannon's gonna want the farm subsidies revisited, Katzenmoyer's gonna go back to Federal tax exempt for MetroLink, we're talking about unions--

They bust into--

15 INT. WEST WING LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

15

SAM

--defense contracts, possibly agency appointments... My point is, the clock is running and we're no closer to answering the question.

JOSH

Which question?

(CONTINUED)

SAM
How to get five votes without giving
away everything in the store.

BONNIE passes by--

BONNIE
Congratulations, Josh.

JOSH
Thanks.

SAM
What the hell--

JOSH
(snapping him back
into the conversation)
We do it by giving away nothing in the
store.

SAM
We can't--

JOSH and SAM stop walking.

JOSH
I say nothing. Sam, LBJ never would've
taken this kinda crap from Democrats in
Congress. He'd have said "You're
voting my way, in exchange for which
it's possible that I might remember
your name, pal." We need to win, and I
mean win. We need to take a curtain
call and a victory lap, and that's how
we get momentum. We need to do it by
being tough. And we give away nothing.

They start walking again--

JOSH
That's what I'm taking to Leo.

SAM
And Chris Wick?

They open the doors into--

16 INT. JOSH'S BULLPEN AREA

16

As JOSH and SAM walk in, the STAFFERS, all holding copies of
a report, stand up and applaud. JOSH stands there blank-faced
until they stop.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
I sense I'm being mocked.

DONNA
Congratulations, Josh.

JOSH
What'd I do?

DONNA
You won our award for, "Best Gift
Valued Over \$25 on the Financial
Disclosure Report."

JOSH
Really?

DONNA
Yeah.

JOSH
What won it for me?

DONNA
An eleven-hundred and eighty-nine
dollar Vianatelli silk smoking
jacket from Ms. Sarah Wissinger.

JOSH
Ah, yes.

DONNA
You were also the runner-up, by the
way, with a \$345 antique scrimshaw
cigarette holder, also from Ms. Sarah
Wissinger.

JOSH
Sarah was very fond of me.

DONNA
Well, I'd imagine with that smoking
jacket and cigarette holder you were
quite the dandy.

JOSH
All right, well this was fun, but Sam
and I are busy making critical
decisions and I'm sure you have a lot
of typing to do, so I'll talk to you
later.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

Bye.

JOSH and SAM start walking past JOSH's office--

JOSH

Anyway, I'll deal with Chris Wick.

SAM

Where are you going?

They stop.

JOSH

Where are you going?

SAM

I've been following you.

JOSH

I've been following you.

(pause)

All right, don't tell anybody this happened, okay?

SAM

Sure.

JOSH goes back toward his office as SAM continues on. He's intercepted by TOBY--

TOBY

Sam.

SAM

Hey.

TOBY

I've got a problem, I need you for a few minutes.

SAM

Sure.

They pass by LEO and MARGARET who are coming in from outside. LEO is giving instructions to MARGARET as she writes on a note pad.

LEO

It can be Dom, it can be Kristal.
She likes them both.

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET
Which do you like?

LEO
I don't drink champagne. The important thing is that it be in a high-hat.

MARGARET
What's that?

LEO
It's the silver bucket that rests on a tripod. In fact the whole meal should be under sterling silver.

MARGARET
They'll know what that means?

17 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

17

LEO
Yes.

MARGARET
How 'bout music?

LEO
I'll put on a record.

MARGARET
You don't want a violinist?

LEO
To play the violin?

MARGARET
Yeah.

LEO
Is that what people get now?

MARGARET
I know it's available.

LEO
(after thinking)
No, 'cause after the initial thing wears off, there's just a guy with a violin in my house.

MARGARET
Right.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

27.
17

They walk into--

18 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

18

LEO

Harry Winston's sending down the choker?

MARGARET

It'll be here this afternoon.

LEO

It's the right size?

MARGARET

We can only hope.

LEO

My wife has a great neck.

MARGARET

This'll certainly call attention to it.

LEO

Would you stop?

MARGARET

You spend too much money.

LEO

And you can squeeze the life out of a nickel better than any ten people I know.

MARGARET

Well excuse me for not making forty thousand a pop on the lecture circuit.

LEO

Stop reading the disclosure reports, they're none of your business.

MARGARET

They're gonna be printed in the newspaper in two days.

JOSH comes in--

JOSH

Leo--

LEO

Josh, do women like violinists?

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
Why? You thinkin' about taking lessons?

LEO
No, I mean to listen to. Next to the table.

JOSH
It gets a little weird after a minute, doesn't it?

LEO
That's what I thought.

JOSH
Is it Jenny's birthday?

LEO
I forgot our anniversary.

JOSH
In that case I'd shift into gear and bring on the Juilliard String Quartet.

LEO
(to MARGARET)
Call the guy.

MARGARET
Perhaps Mrs. McGarry would enjoy you in a nice smoking jacket.

JOSH
(to MARGARET)
Leave.

LEO
Call the guy.

JOSH
I'm gonna go see Katzenmoyer.

LEO
When?

JOSH
Right now.

LEO
What're you gonna give him?

JOSH

Nothing but a wake-up call. I want your permission to kick his ass.

LEO

You wanna dangle his job in front of him?

JOSH

Yeah.

LEO

No.

JOSH

I wanna let him hear the branch creak.

LEO

We do that, it doesn't work, we can't do it again.

JOSH

If it doesn't work, I back off. If it doesn't work, we give Katzenmoyer MetroLink, we let O'Bannon order off the menu. If it does, I think we get the other four votes no problem when word gets out we're not screwin' around.

LEO

(pause)

I should sell tickets to this meeting.

CUT TO:

19 INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - DAY

19

SAM and TOBY are talking--

SAM

A hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars?

TOBY

Could you stop saying that?

SAM

Sure.

TOBY

How much trouble am I in?

(CONTINUED)

SAM
There's two kinds of trouble here.
Actual trouble and PR trouble.

TOBY
Talk about actual trouble.

SAM
You're in no actual trouble.

TOBY
Really?

SAM
Absolutely not.

TOBY
Good.

SAM
But I'd hire a lawyer anyway.

TOBY
Why?

SAM
Because technically you've committed
a felony punishable by imprisonment and
fines that could reach into the
millions.

TOBY
(pause)
All right, let's move away from actual
trouble for a second, and talk about--

SAM
Perception.

TOBY
Yes.

SAM
Right. You've done nothing wrong, yet
the perception of those who choose to
glance only at a snapshot would be
embarrassing.

TOBY
To say nothing of damaging to the
President.

SAM

Indeed.

TOBY

Why are you talking like this?

SAM

Because I can't help but be reminded of a bright and energetic young White House Deputy who took no end of grief and admonition because of a woman he was friends with.

TOBY

I totally backed you up on that.

SAM

Which is why I couldn't be happier to help you out. It's like being able to do something for your older brother. I'm your guy on this. What's your level of confidence?

TOBY

Absolutely none.

SAM

First of all, who else would know about this?

TOBY

Anyone who's seen the report.

SAM

Everyone has the report, but you'd have to really want to study it to know--

C.J. pops in--

C.J.

Excuse me. Toby? I was just heading out for lunch and I'm a little short. You wouldn't happen to have a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars I could borrow, would you?

SAM

I got your back, there, buddy.

TOBY

I'm so completely screwed.

CUT TO:

20 EXT./EST. THE CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

20

KATZENMOYER (VO)

You gotta understand the people in my district, Josh.

CUT TO:

21 INT. KATZENMOYER'S OFFICE - DAY

21

JOSH is having a meeting with CONGRESSMAN KATZENMOYER, mid-40's. He looks like he's an insurance salesman.

JOSH

Your constituents like the Tech-9 and the Rutger Mini-14, do they? They go quail hunting with an Uzi?

KATZENMOYER

I won with 52% of the vote. From the moment I'm sworn in, I need to raise ten-thousand dollars a day just to run a re-election campaign.

JOSH

And you're not doin' so well.

KATZENMOYER

We're averaging about 6500. That's money I can just squeak by with. If the NRA makes me a target in the next election, I lose. Plain and simple. Ask me two years from now and I'll be there for you.

JOSH

Fifty-five thousand more people will be shot and killed with a gun two years from now, but that's very much beside the point.

KATZENMOYER

What is the point.

JOSH

Forgive my bluntness and I say this with all due respect, Congressman, but vote "yes," or you're not even gonna be on the ballot two years from now.

KATZENMOYER

How do you figure?

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

You're gonna lose in the primary.

KATZENMOYER

There's no Democrat who's challenging me.

JOSH

Sure there is.

KATZENMOYER

Who?

JOSH

Whoever we pick.

KATZENMOYER

(pause)

You're bluffing.

JOSH

(getting up)

Okay.

KATZENMOYER

I'm in your own party.

JOSH

Doesn't seem to be doing us much good right now, does it?

KATZENMOYER

Against an incumbent Democrat, you would go to the press and endorse a challenger?

JOSH

No sir, we're gonna do it in person. See, you won with 52%, but the President took your district with 59, and I think it's high time we come back and say, "thanks."

KATZENMOYER

Oh, God.

JOSH

You have any idea how much noise Air Force One makes when it lands in Eau Claire, Wisconsin? We're gonna throw a party, Congressman, you should come, it's gonna be great.

(MORE)

*

(CONTINUED)

JOSH (cont'd)

And after the watermelon's done, right in town square, right in the band gazebo--you guys got a band gazebo?

KATZENMOYER

Josh--

JOSH

Doesn't matter, we'll build one. And right there, right in the band gazebo, that's where the President's gonna drape his arm over the shoulder of some Assistant D.A. we like. And you should have your camera with you, you should take a picture of that. 'Cause that's the moment you'll be finished in Democratic politics.

(beat)

President Bartlet's a good man, he's got a good heart. He doesn't hold a grudge.

(beat)

That's what he pays me for.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

21A EXT. GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

21A

LAURIE, wearing jeans and a sweatshirt and SAM, in his suit and tie, are sitting under a tree. There are sandwiches, law books and notepads spread out on a blanket in front of them.

SAM

See, I'll tell you what has me nervous about Josh's strategy.

LAURIE

Sam, I've got con law in an hour.

SAM

Should I sit quietly?

LAURIE

Yeah, 'cause I've gotta study this.

SAM

No problem.

LAURIE

Thanks.

SAM

I'll eat my sandwich.

LAURIE

Good, Sam.

SAM

(beat)

What has me nervous is this:

LAURIE

Sam--

SAM

It's gonna come back to bite us.

LAURIE

Eat your sandwich.

SAM

The thing is, I'm having trouble deciding between the chicken salad and the ham and cheese.

(CONTINUED)

LAURIE

Well, maybe this'll help you: The chicken salad is mine.

SAM

The chicken salad's lookin' awfully good.

LAURIE

And the chicken salad is also mine.

SAM

Yeah, but once it hits the blanket it's pretty much community food, isn't it?

LAURIE

You're not afraid of being seen with me right now?

SAM

Because of the way you're dressed?

LAURIE

No. Because of my night job, Sam. You're not afraid of being seen with me?

SAM

No.

LAURIE goes back to working.

SAM

Your night job is crummy.

LAURIE

Yes, I know.

SAM

We won't talk about it now.

LAURIE

Thank you.

SAM

Don't you want to know why Josh's strategy is dangerous?

LAURIE

I have class in an hour and I'm not even--

SAM

For God's sake, it's U.S. versus Carson City Power and Gas, Federal Docket 774-B.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SAM (cont'd)

Cite the precedent, cite Brandeis's opinion for the majority.

LAURIE

Well, thank you for that display of geek bravado, but I'd really like to learn this myself, so I can graduate law school, practice law and give up my night job.

SAM

And I'd like you to learn from my experience when I tell you that law school bears little relation to the practice of law.

LAURIE

It bears some relation to graduating, though, right?

SAM

Yes.

LAURIE

Then shut up.

SAM does as he's told. LAURIE goes back to the books. She sees that SAM badly wants to talk.

LAURIE

All right, tell me what's dangerous about Josh's strategy.

SAM

Really?

LAURIE

Keep it short.

SAM

It'll come back to bite us.

LAURIE

You get the five votes in exchange for what?

SAM

In exchange for some kind of political punishment for the way we got 'em.

LAURIE

What kind of punishment?

SAM
They'll think of something.
(pause)
Go back to work.

LAURIE gives SAM a pat on the leg and then goes back to her books...

SAM
Laurie?

LAURIE
(frustrated)
Sam--

SAM
No, I just wanted to tell you. I've
decided on the ham and cheese.

LAURIE
Enjoy it, Sam.

SAM
Thanks.

CUT TO:

22 INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

22

C.J. is running through some disclosure reports with the
PRESS--

C.J.
A \$145 Armani cravat, which I'm pretty
sure is a neck-tie--

The PRESS LAUGHS--

C.J.
It was a gift from his brother-in-law.
He gave it away to the Salvation Army;
Information I'm sure the President
would prefer his brother-in-law did not
have.

The PRESS LAUGHS again. JOSH slips in the back and
watches...

REPORTER
C.J., I'm curious about the President's
farm in Manchester. The property value
increased nearly \$750,000. What's that
due to?

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
Secret Service improvements.

REPORTER
Could you go into detail?

C.J.
The property now includes a helipad
and the ability to run a global war
from the sun porch.

Everyone LAUGHS.

C.J.
That's all for now, folks. Next up,
Deputy Chief of Staff Joshua Lyman.
I assure you, you'll want to reserve
column inches for this one.

A few reporters call, "Thank you, C.J.," "Thanks," etc., as
the press briefing breaks up. JOSH meets C.J. at the door--

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
Thanks for the promo.

C.J.
They really can't get enough of you.

JOSH and C.J. walk into--

23 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

23

JOSH
I got Katzenmoyer.

C.J.
He's back?

JOSH
Along with O'Bannon and LeBrandt.

C.J.
You got three?

JOSH
Chris Wick's waiting for me right now.
I don't know what his story is but I'm
not that worried.

C.J.
You're worried about Tillinghouse?

JOSH
I can't get him without the Vice
President. Leo's gotta loosen up on
that.

DONNA intercepts them--

DONNA
Josh.

C.J.
Get Wick and then we'll deal with it.

C.J. peels off as JOSH and DONNA keep walking--

DONNA
Congressman Wick is waiting in the
Mural Room.

JOSH
I know.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA
He's been waiting twenty minutes.

JOSH
I know.

DONNA
You have a Legislative Liaison meeting
in fifteen minutes.

JOSH
I know.

DONNA
And then the East Asia briefing.

JOSH
I know.

DONNA
All right, well then this entire
conversation served only as a reminder.

JOSH
Actually it served only as a colossal
waste of time and energy. Keep up the
good work.

And with that, JOSH walks into--

CHRISTOPHER WICK is Josh's age and looks more like a William
Morris agent than a Congressman. A couple of Wick's AIDES
stand about and there's a coffee service set out.

WICK
Dude.

JOSH
(shaking hands)
Congressman.

WICK
(introducing the AIDES)
This is--

JOSH
Yeah. Guys, would you mind waiting
outside, please, the Congressman and
I want to talk about old times.

WICK
(to the AIDES)
Go ahead.

JOSH
And close the door, please.

The AIDES walk out and shut the door--

JOSH
(indicating the aides
with a nod of his head)
That supposed to impress me? You have
staff?

WICK
Josh--

JOSH
I told the House Minority Whip he was
crazy. No way is Chris Wick jumping
the fence. Do you have any idea how
stupid that makes me look?

WICK
Hey, look, about that, dude, I'm--

JOSH
Shove it, dude, we're not in a frat
house anymore.

WICK
What the hell--

JOSH
Name for me, please, the weapons banned
in this bill and why you feel they
should be legal.

WICK
I realize I should've called you when--

JOSH
Let's start here: List for me, please,
the weapons banned in this bill.

WICK
If you'd let me--

JOSH
You don't have a clue.

(CONTINUED)

WICK

That's not--

JOSH

The MAC-90?

WICK

Listen--

JOSH

PCR? MFR? Anything ring a bell?

WICK

My aides--

JOSH

They're both copycats of the AR-15 assault rifle which was banned two years ago. It's the exact same gun!

WICK

Calm down.

JOSH

It's back, they just changed the grip. How 'bout the PAT-Maxi?

WICK

It's a semi-automatic, muzzle barreled--

JOSH

It's a grenade launcher.

WICK

Yes, I was--

JOSH

You know as an adult, I realize that not everyone shares my view of the world, and with an issue as hot as gun control, I'm prepared to accept a lot of different points of view as being perfectly valid, but we can all get together on the grenade launcher, right?

WICK

Josh--

JOSH

I put you in your seat. I got you elected to the House of Representatives.

(CONTINUED)

WICK

Yeah, and now you guys think I'm on the leash. I get taken for granted, Josh. I've one photo-op with the President. One. Me and 16 other freshman. That makes me weak.

JOSH

You're not serious.

WICK

I've been here over a year, where's the courtship? This isn't ego, a relationship with the White House is currency around here, and I need some.

JOSH

You're voting down a measure that would restrict the sale of deadly weapons 'cause nobody invited you over to the cool kids' table?

WICK

It got your attention.

JOSH

(pause)

You know I'm so sick of Congress I could vomit.

(pause)

What do you want?

WICK

A round of golf.

JOSH

The President doesn't play golf.

WICK

What does he play?

JOSH

Chess.

WICK

Over brandy. A couple of White House photographers and we're fine.

JOSH

He's gonna kick your ass, you know.

(CONTINUED)

WICK
Whatever. And I don't appreciate
being--

JOSH moves to the door--

JOSH
You're a Congressman, Chris. You gotta
make that real. This time it was me in
the Mural Room. Trust me when I tell
you, you don't want to have this
conversation with the guy who works
next door.

JOSH opens the door, and as he steps into--

25 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

25

JOSH
(to the AIDES)
You can go back in now.

JOSH continues on as we:

CUT TO:

26 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - DAY

26

LEO is showing C.J., SAM and MANDY a pearl choker. TOBY is
sitting off to the side.

MANDY
Wow.

LEO
Wow is right.

C.J.
It's beautiful.

SAM
(suggestively)
Excellent choice, my friend.

LEO
Stop lookin' at me like that, you're
talkin' about Jenny.

SAM
My point being only that this should
flatter her neck in ways that are sure
to please you.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
Can I try it on?

LEO
No.

MANDY
Can I rub it against my teeth?

LEO
No.

TOBY
(head on the table)
Could we possibly talk about me?

C.J.
(to LEO)
Are you saying I'm gonna stretch it?

JOSH walks in--

JOSH
Leo, I've got four of five. I'm absolutely convinced we need the Vice President to get Tillinghouse.

C.J.
We're all agreed on that.

LEO
No.

JOSH
This needs a Texan.

LEO
I had a different idea.

JOSH
What?

LEO
I go to Richardson.

MANDY
We've been through it with Richardson.

JOSH
The whole Congressional Black Caucus. Let's not get 'em any more pissed off at us than they are already.

(CONTINUED)

LEO
I'll talk to Richardson alone.

JOSH
You'll have to do it quietly and right now.

LEO
(calling)
Margaret--

JOSH
Call me as soon as you've got it.

JOSH exits--

MARGARET
Yes sir.

LEO
I need to see Mark Richardson out of the office.

MARGARET exits. SAM holds up the necklace to TOBY.

SAM
Hey, Toby, you know you can afford to buy one of these now if you want.

TOBY
There's literally no one in the world that I don't hate right now.

CUT TO:

27 **EXT. THE REFLECTING POOL - LATE AFTERNOON**

27

A SECRET SERVICE AGENT is strolling slowly along the path next to the pool. Ahead of him by 30 yards are LEO and Congressman Mark RICHARDSON, a handsome African-American man in his early 50's.

RICHARDSON
Lemme guess: Josh got Katzenmoyer and the rest of 'em back in the boat, you came to me instead of Tillinghouse 'cause you don't want to use Hoynes.

LEO
We need this one, Mark.

RICHARDSON
I'm voting "no," Leo.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Mark, it was all we could get right now and you know it.

RICHARDSON

You didn't work hard enough.

LEO

We did.

RICHARDSON

What happened to the TEC DC-9 and the TEC-22? What happened to the Striker-12 and the Streetsweeper?

LEO

We had to lose 'em.

RICHARDSON

You never fought for 'em.

LEO

We have to do this inch by inch, you know how this works.

RICHARDSON

No, I know how you guys work.

LEO

That's outa line, Congressman, guns are number-one on my list of priorities and I've never moved the President off of that.

RICHARDSON

Keeping the White House strong is number-one on your list of priorities.

LEO

If the White House isn't strong, it doesn't really matter what number-two on my list is. Jesus Christ, Mark, the bodies being wheeled into the emergency rooms are black. These guns aren't going to Scottsdale, Mark, they're going to Detroit. They're going to Philadelphia. An entire generation of African-American men are being eaten alive by drugs and poverty, your men are in jail, Mark.

RICHARDSON

Well, I'm encouraged to hear the White House has discovered there's a drug problem in this country. Your penetrating insight is matched only by the courage displayed in the authorship of this bill.

LEO

Mark, for God's sake--

RICHARDSON

"Not the three inch grip, but the two inch grip with the 40 gauge barrel and the 30 round clip, not the twenty round clip with the three day wait to run a check to see if you're crazy"--as if wanting the gun in the first place wasn't a pretty good heads up. This is for show, and I think it's an unconscionable waste of the taxpayers' money to have it printed, signed and photocopied, to say nothing of enforced. I want the guns, Leo. Write a law that can save some lives and I'll sign it. In the meantime, please don't tell me how to be a leader of black men. You look like an idiot.

RICHARDSON walks away... LEO stands there frozen a moment. Then sits down on a bench. He takes out his cell phone and dials.

CUT TO:

28

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

28

MANDY is looking over a financial disclosure report. JOSH is pacing anxiously--

MANDY

Somebody gave you a year's supply of fruit?

JOSH

Yes.

MANDY

Why?

JOSH

There are people who like me.

(CONTINUED)

MANDY

(beat)

Why?

DONNA pops her head in--

DONNA

It's Leo.

JOSH grabs the phone--

JOSH

(into phone)

What happened?

JOSH listens, then nods "no" to Mandy--

MANDY

He needs to talk to Hoynes. We'll set up a meeting.

JOSH

(into phone)

Leo, we're gonna set up a meeting with the Vice President.

CUT TO:

29 INT. LEO'S CAR - NIGHT

29

LEO's in the back reading some papers as the car pulls up to his house. He notices something disturbing out the window: A taxi waiting in the driveway.

30 EXT. LEO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

30

LEO gets out of the car and goes up the walk and opens the front door.

31 INT. LEO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

31

LEO walks in. In the dining room is a beautiful catered gourmet dinner presentation, though the candles have been blown out. LEO looks at the bottom of the stairs and sees two suitcases with the coat folded over them.

LEO

(tentatively)

Jenny?

JENNY comes out from around where the kitchen is. LEO hasn't moved.

(CONTINUED)

JENNY
I'm still here.

LEO
(beat)
What's going on?

JENNY
Leo--

LEO
Jenny, what's going on?

JENNY
Honey, I'm so sorry you went to
all this trouble. I really am.

LEO
It wasn't any trouble.

JENNY
I can't do it anymore. This is crazy.
I don't want to live like this. I just
can't.

LEO
I'm sorry about the anniversary. I
bought you a--

JENNY
It's not the anniversary, it's
everything, it's the whole thing.

LEO
This is the most important thing I'll
ever do, Jenny, I have to do it well.

JENNY
It's not more important than your
marriage.

LEO
It is more important than my marriage.
Right now, these few years, while I'm
doing this, yes, of course it's more
important than my marriage. I didn't
decide to do this myself, Jenny, there
were many discussions.

JENNY
The fact that you can find the time to
take your staff out for a late-night
steak and you can't find the time--

(CONTINUED)

LEO
I'm five votes down and I need to
win, Jenny, I met with the staff--

JENNY
You made the time.

LEO
I made the time tonight.

JENNY
You didn't make the time tonight.

LEO
I hired a whole--

JENNY
Margaret called to confirm your
nine o'clock meeting with the Vice
President.

LEO
(pause)
I was gonna slip out for 45 minutes
and be right--

JENNY
Leo--

LEO
I was gonna be right back.

JENNY
I can't.
(beat)
Really.

LEO doesn't know what to say...

LEO
I don't suppose we could postpone
this discussion until... It's just
that the last couple of days have
been kind of--

JENNY
I have to go now.

LEO
Okay.

JENNY
I'll be at the Watergate.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Okay.

JENNY

I'll talk to you later.

LEO

You'll call me?

JENNY

Yeah.

JENNY picks up her coat and bags--

LEO

You want me to carry that to the cab?

JENNY

That's okay.

LEO

Call me before you go to sleep.

JENNY

Okay.

JENNY exits and the door closes behind her. LEO stands there a moment.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

32 **EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT** 32

CUT TO:

33 **INT. HOYNES' S OFFICE - NIGHT** 33

HOYNES is sitting at his desk, reading a report in a pool of light from his desk lamp. His secretary, JANEANE, opens the door and pops her head in...

JANEANE

Sir...

HOYNES

Janeane, did you know there's a town in Iowa with 843 residents, each and every one of whom are named "Miller"?

JANEANE

(smiling)

I didn't know that.

HOYNES

How do you suppose they get their mail delivered?

JANEANE

(very good at flirting)

I don't know.

HOYNES

Send him in.

LEO's shown into the office--

LEO

Good evening, Mr. Vice President.

HOYNES

C'mon in. Thanks Janeane.

LEO

(absently)

Thanks.

JANEANE closes the door behind him. LEO seems slightly subdued and distracted. HOYNES studies this for a moment before...

(CONTINUED)

HOYNES

What'd you need to see me about?

LEO

I came in to talk to you about 802.
We lost five votes--

HOYNES

I know.

LEO

We got four of 'em back but I was
stupid with Richardson and now it's
Tillinghouse. So I came in to talk to
you about that and--

HOYNES

Leo are you feeling okay? Sid down.

LEO

Jenny and I are splitting up and it
just happened and I'm feeling a little--

HOYNES

(calling)
Janeane!

LEO

If I could just get a glass of water.

JANEANE comes in--

HOYNES

(to JANEANE)
A glass of ice water.

JANEANE

Should I call a doctor?

HOYNES

No, just the water.

JANEANE leaves.

HOYNES

It's one of those things, Leo, it's
gonna be fine.

LEO

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

HOYNES

(pause)

I mean you want to talk about it
at all?

LEO

No.

JANEANE comes back in with the water and hands it to LEO.

LEO

Thanks.

JANEANE exits. LEO takes a sip of water.

LEO

Anyway--

HOYNES

I'll see Tillinghouse.

LEO

Yeah?

HOYNES

I'll see him in the morning.

LEO

You'll deliver him?

HOYNES

It's a done deal.

LEO

I don't need to tell you we need this
win.

HOYNES

I think we're home.

LEO

Thanks, John. I want you to know the
President and I appreciate it.

HOYNES

Leo, you mind if I ask you a question?

LEO

What?

HOYNES

When was the last time you went to a
meeting?

(CONTINUED)

LEO

(pause)

What meeting could I possibly go to?

HOYNES

Mine.

LEO

(pause)

John, tell me you're not showing your face at--

HOYNES

I got a meeting, Leo. Once a week, in a basement office at OEOB, at eleven p.m. There's nine of us. Three Senators, two Cabinet Secretaries, a Federal Judge and two Agency Directors. There's an agent outside the door, the whole thing looks like a card game.

LEO

(pause)

Do I have enemies in that room?

HOYNES

They're all our people.

LEO

(pause)

I had no idea.

HOYNES

Neither will anyone else. You should think about it. Are you driving?

LEO

No, I got my guy.

HOYNES

Have a good night, Leo. I'm sorry about Jenny.

LEO

Call me after Tillinghouse.

HOYNES

It's in the bag.

LEO

G'night.

LEO exits and HOYNES calls out the open door--

(CONTINUED)

HOYNES
(calling)
Janeane.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE:

WEDNESDAY

FADE IN:

34 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

34

CUT TO:

35 INT. JOSH'S BULLPEN AREA - SAME TIME

35

MANDY is standing outside Josh's door with a copy of the disclosure report. JOSH's door opens and as soon as JOSH steps out--

MANDY
Hi, there.

JOSH
How ya doin'?

They begin walking--

MANDY
Sarah Wissinger?

JOSH
Yes. A smoking jacket and a cigarette holder. All declared items. I'm clean as a whistle.

MANDY
You received these gifts on July 3rd.

JOSH
(pause)
I'm sensing trouble but I can't quite figure out--

MANDY
You and I didn't break up until July ninth.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
(to himself)
And there it was right in front of my
face.

They go through the doors and into--

36 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

36

MANDY
She was giving you presents on July
3rd?

JOSH
You knew I knew Sarah.

MANDY
I didn't know she was giving you
presents.

JOSH
They weren't by way of saying "Thanks
for sleeping with me" if that's what
you mean.

MANDY
Don't talk to me.

CUT TO:

37 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

37

SAM, C.J. and TOBY sit or stand.

C.J.
What if he came clean and fessed-up?

TOBY
Fessed-up to what?

C.J.
Your whole nefarious life of crime.

SAM
You think the press'd take pity on
him?

C.J.
They would if he sang a little
number.

JOSH and MANDY enter--

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Hey.

TOBY

What's goin' on?

JOSH

Hoynes is having breakfast with
Tillinghouse.

MANDY

Sarah Wissinslut gave him the jacket
on July 3rd.

JOSH

I really thought a nice by-product
of not going out with you anymore
would be that you wouldn't yell
at me anymore.

MANDY

That was a bit unrealistic.

JOSH

Where's the President?

LEO enters from his office--

TOBY

I haven't seen him.

C.J.

Leo, how'd it go?

LEO

What do you mean?

JOSH

Last night.

LEO

Great.

C.J.

She liked the choker.

LEO

Yeah.

JOSH

How 'bout the violinist?

(CONTINUED)

LEO

You're right, after the first couple of minutes it's strange that he's there, but, you know, she ate it up, so--

SAM

Great.

TOBY

Where's the President?

LEO

His back is pretty bad today. He's canceled the morning. He'll stay in bed and make some calls. We should move this to--

There's a KNOCK on the glass of the door leading to the portico. BARTLET opens the door and steps in. He's wearing sweatpants, a Notre Dame sweatshirt and a baseball cap.

BARTLET

Hey.

LEO

Mr. President, I thought you were staying in bed.

BARTLET

No, I feel fine.

LEO

Maybe you should get back to the residence.

BARTLET

(pause)

Hm?

LEO

I said maybe you should get back to the residence. Maybe you should lie down.

BARTLET

Absolutely no need. What's goin' on?

SAM

Nothing you need to be involved with, Mr. President. A perception issue regarding Toby and the financial disclosure.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

Well, I like to roll up my sleeves and,
you know...

There's an excruciatingly long wait before...

BARTLET

...get involved.

C.J.

Mr. President, did you by any chance
take your back pills?

BARTLET

I don't mind tellin' you, C.J.,
I was in a little bit of pain.

LEO

Which did you take, sir, the Vicadin
or the Percocet?

BARTLET thinks about it for a moment...

BARTLET

I wasn't supposed to take 'em both?

C.J.

Okay. Mr. President, we're gonna
have someone take you back to bed.

BARTLET

No, no, no. Sit, sit, sit. One of you
has a problem, I'm gonna help. You
guys are like family. You've been
there for me, you're loyal to me, you
work hard and you're good people. I
love you all and I don't say that
enough.

BARTLET sits down and pats SAM on the thigh--

BARTLET

Tell me what the problem is, Toby.

SAM

I'm Sam, sir.

BARTLET

Of course..

TOBY

The situation basically is this:
I arranged for a friend to testify to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOBY (cont'd)
commerce on internet stocks, while simultaneously but unrelated to that, bought a technology issue which, due partly to my friend's testimony, shot through the roof.

BARTLET

Toby.

(beat)

Toby, Toby, Toby.

(pause)

Toby's a pretty nice name, don't you think?

TOBY

Leo, is there any chance we could have this meeting another time?

BARTLET

No. Please. I know my body, you know, my muscles, I know they're not, you know, but my mind is sharp. I'm focused, I can focus, you know this about me. So I think the thing to do is this:

(pause)

Was I just saying something?

LEO

(calling)

Mrs. Landingham!

MANDY

Look, really, we have to run through some options.

MRS. LANDINGHAM comes in--

MRS. LANDINGHAM

Yes.

JOSH

Get Charlie.

MRS. LANDINGHAM exits.

MANDY

Let's start at the bottom.

SAM

What do you mean?

MANDY

There's always resignation.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

Hot damn, now we're talkin'.

Everyone but TOBY looks down or away, trying not to laugh...

TOBY

(pause)

I think she meant me, Mr. President.

BARTLET

Ah.

LEO

Of course Toby's not gonna resign. I think we're making more of this than--

SAM

I've got it.

TOBY

I've got a lawyer from the White House Counsel's office--

SAM

I've got it.

MANDY

What?

SAM

The Counsel's office releases a statement through C.J. In the strongest possible language we make it clear that there was no wrongdoing of any kind.

TOBY

Yes.

SAM

But to avoid even the appearance of impropriety, Toby has agreed to reduce his salary for one year to one-dollar, and cash out the stock issue immediately, thereby relieving the tax payers of the burden.

BARTLET

Done.

TOBY

Wait--

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Good, Sam.

SAM

Thanks.

TOBY

It's not good, it stinks.

BARTLET

Toby, you're a wonderful writer, did you know that?

TOBY

Thank you, sir, but--

BARTLET

C'mon. Gimme a hug.

CHARLIE comes in--

CHARLIE

Excuse me. Mr. President--

BARTLET

Charlie--

CHARLIE

Mr. President, I left you alone for two minutes.

BARTLET

Charlie's a great name.

CHARLIE

Thank you, sir, you have to go back to bed.

BARTLET

I'm goin', I'm goin', I'm goin'.
But before I go, let me just say this: I've been thinking seriously about getting a dog.

LEO

Feel better, Mr. President.

Everyone joins in with their, "Take cares," and "Feel betters," as the meeting breaks up.

SAM

(to TOBY)

How do you feel there, big guy?

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

Like I just got screwed with my pants
on.

SAM

Excellent.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOYNES'S OFFICE TERRACE - DAY

HOYNES and TILLINGHOUSE are eating breakfast.

TILLINGHOUSE

Honest to goodness, John, this isn't
a political maneuver.

HOYNES

I know.

TILLINGHOUSE

I'm voting my conscience.

HOYNES

I know.

TILLINGHOUSE

You can't put the toothpaste back in
the tube. 240-million guns out there,
how 'ya gonna get 'em back?

HOYNES

You can't.

TILLINGHOUSE

Of course not. Well as long as they've
got a gun, I want my wife to have a
gun, I want my daughter to have a gun,
and goddammit, I want one too.

HOYNES

It makes perfect sense.

TILLINGHOUSE

And you might want to mention to Josh
Lyman that Congressmen don't appreciate
being bullied like ill-behaved school
children.

HOYNES

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

TILLINGHOUSE

Katzenmoyer, O'Bannon, LeBrandt, the
new kid, Christopher Wick, these are
grown men with pride and dignity, they
can't be manhandled. *

HOYNES

They're pretty pissed are they?

TILLINGHOUSE

Behind closed doors they're screaming
bloody murder and they're talking about
political retribution.

HOYNES

I don't blame 'em.

TILLINGHOUSE

Reality is reality. *

HOYNES

Yes. Which is why I'd like very much
for you to do the following, Cal. I
want you to vote "yes" on the
Resolution.

TILLINGHOUSE

John--

HOYNES

And you might wanna mention this
conversation to Representatives
Katzenmoyer, O'Bannon, LeBrandt
and Wick.

TILLINGHOUSE looks at HOYNES for a long moment...

TILLINGHOUSE

Why John, you do seize the moment,
don't you.

HOYNES

You've got a roll call.

TILLINGHOUSE

Tell me something: What's in it
for me? *

HOYNES

Right now?

TILLINGHOUSE

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

HOYNES

Nothing.

TILLINGHOUSE

Then why am I handing you a personal political victory?

HOYNES

Why?

TILLINGHOUSE

Yes.

HOYNES

Because I'm gonna be the President of the United States one day and you're not.

CUT TO:

39

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - NIGHT

39

Over shots of the city, we HEAR layers of news reports--

NEWSCASTER #1 (VO)

...the Mini-9 and the Rutger 14. The bill passed the House by a slim one-vote margin and though White House officials had hoped this would serve as a much-needed victory for the President, it's Vice President John Hoynes who many Democrats on the Hill are--

NEWSCASTER #2 (VO)

--Congressmen Katzenmoyer and O'Bannon, as well as others say that credit is due Vice President Hoynes for the--

NEWSCASTER #3 (VO)

--Mark Richardson, leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, had little to say about the--

CUT TO:

40

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

40

LEO, JOSH, SAM, C.J., TOBY, MANDY and DONNA are watching a bank of television monitors, with TOBY switching the sound from one to the next.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

NEWSCASTER #3 (VO)

--victory, choosing instead, according to one aide close to Mr. Richardson, to let the Vice President have his moment.

MANDY

Unbelievable.

SAM

I don't believe it.

MANDY

We loosen the ketchup bottle and he pops the top off.

SAM

And keeps the ketchup.

C.J.

Sorry, Leo, you saw this one comin' through the midtown tunnel.

JOSH

It's my fault. I pissed 'em all off and they're payin' us back by giving Hoynes the curtain call.

Part of LEO seems to be someplace else...

LEO

We got what we deserved.

(beat)

It was hubris. And we got what we deserved.

(beat)

G'night everyone.

(beat)

Listen. We won.

LEO exits...

TOBY

Where's the President?

C.J.

He's asleep.

TOBY

Wake him.

C.J.

Toby--

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

Wake him now.

*
*

C.J.

Let's leave it 'till the morning,
Toby.

(beat)

Let's leave it 'till the morning.

JOSH is totally silent. He slips out of the room unnoticed
as we:

CUT TO:

INT. HOYNES'S OFFICE - NIGHT

HOYNES reads by the light of his desk lamp. A few TV MONITORS
silently play news reports. JANEANE pops her head in.

JANEANE

Sir?

HOYNES

Yeah.

JANEANE

Josh Lyman is here, he was wondering
if he could see you for a moment.

HOYNES

Sure.

JOSH is shown in--

JOSH

Good evening, Mr. Vice President.

HOYNES

Nice victory.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
Are you talking about the bill or
the smoking jacket?

HOYNES
I heard about that. No, I was talking
about the bill.

JOSH
It's a crappy law.

HOYNES
Nah.

JOSH
No, it is. I should know, I helped
write it.

HOYNES
You did well.

JOSH
I'd say it's roughly the equivalent of
fighting the war on tobacco by banning
certain color matchbook covers.

HOYNES
These things happen slowly.

JOSH
I'd say you did well, sir. In fact you
may even be the only one who did. So
I just came by to say congratulations.

HOYNES looks at JOSH and smiles a little bit, admiring the
deftness and courtesy with which he just told the Vice
President, "Fuck You." JANEANE comes in--

JANEANE
Mr. Vice President--

HOYNES
I'm on my way Janeane.

HOYNES grabs his jacket and heads for the door...

HOYNES
Josh.

JOSH
Yes sir.

HOYNES
Welcome to the NFL.

JOSH
Yes sir.

HOYNES is out the door.

CUT TO:

42 INT. BASEMENT CORRIDOR AT OEOB - NIGHT

42

LEO walks down the empty corridor alone, his footsteps making too much noise for his comfort. He rounds a corner and sees an undistinguished door being guarded by a SECRET SERVICE AGENT. He walks right up to the agent, but doesn't know what to say.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT
Something I can help you with, Mr.
McGarry?

LEO
(pause)
I'm here for the card game.

The Agent understand and opens the door a crack...

LEO
Thank you.

We SEE one or two people through the crack in the doorway as LEO steps in. The door closes behind him as we

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END