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The West Wing

Night Five

Episode Fourteen

THE WEST WING

"Gone Quiet"

CAST LIST

PRESIDENT JOSIAH BARTLET
LEO McGARRY
JOSH LYMAN
SAM SEABORN
TOBY ZIEGLER
C.J. CREGG
CHARLIE YOUNG
DONNA MOSS
ABIGAIL BARTLET

NANCY MCNALLY
BRUNO GIANELLI
CONNIE TATE
GINGER
BONNIE
OLIVER BABISH

OFFICER
TAWNY RICH
ALBIE DUNCAN
OFFICER #2
OFFICER #3
COMMAND (V.O.)
PORTLAND (V.O.)

THE WEST WING

"Gone Quiet"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

EXTERIORS

WHITE HOUSE

Situation Room
Oval Office
Corridors
Stairs
Roosevelt Room
Communications Bullpen
Babish's Office
Mural Room
Josh's Office
C.J.'s Office
Mrs. Landingham's Office

"Gone Quiet"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

1

NANCY's working as LEO comes in.

LEO

One day I'm gonna get called to the Situation Room and it's gonna be good news. We'll have discovered buried treasure or it turns out there's life on Andromeda and they think we're doing a good job. When's that day gonna come, Nancy, when's that gonna happen.

NANCY

Settle down.

LEO

What do you need.

NANCY

The Commander of the Pac Fleet has informed us that he's lost contact with the USS Portland which is a Sea Wolf class sub.

LEO

What were their orders?

NANCY

They were on a close-in a week ago and they were supposed to report in yesterday fourteen hundred. They were gonna surface to periscope depth and download and upload deterrence intelligence data.

LEO

Well they've gone quiet, they're a submarine.

NANCY

(putting on the best face)
Sure. Maybe.

LEO

But?

(CONTINUED)

NANCY

They usually call in and say they're going quiet.

LEO

What are the other possibilities?

NANCY

That they've lost all power and they're drifting aimlessly in hostile waters.

LEO

What hostile waters?

NANCY

Yeah, the Portland's in the Yellow Sea, their last location was 60 miles due west of Seoul.

LEO

We haven't heard from them and they're in North Korea.

NANCY

Yeah.

LEO

What do we have ready if we need to order a massive and undetectable rescue mission?

NANCY

We've put two DSRVs on alert from Ballast Point, San Diego. Two C-141 Starlifters are on alert as NAS North Island, ready to pick up a rescue crew and fittings. They'll meet up with two Fast Attack Seawolfs we have stationed off Japan-- each carrying 50 Tomahawks. They practice for this all the time, but we shouldn't do it, not yet.

LEO

Why not?

NANCY

'Cause I think they've gone quiet.

LEO

You said they usually call.

NANCY
They usually do.

LEO
I've gotta tell the President.

NANCY
The President's gonna hit the panic
button, Leo, if the Portland went quiet
it's because somebody's sitting on top of
'em, these guys know what they're doing.

LEO
I'll be back.

LEO exits and we

CUT TO:

2 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

2

CHARLIE's packing a briefcase as BARTLET looks out the window
behind his desk.

BARTLET
The propellers aren't going.

CHARLIE
No.

BARTLET
They know I want to leave now?

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

BARTLET
The propellers aren't going.

CHARLIE
Maybe they're saving fuel.

BARTLET
That makes sense. Also, there's the
chance I could get hit getting on or off.

CHARLIE
(laughing a little to himself)
Yeah.

BARTLET
Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE
Sir?

BARTLET
You think I'm not tall enough to get hit
in the neck by the propellers on Marine
One?

CHARLIE
I think Dikembe Mutombo isn't tall enough
to get hit in the neck by the propellers
on Marine One.

BARTLET
I duck when I get on that helicopter. And
I should too, it's just good safety
sense.

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

BARTLET
They know I want to leave now?

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

BARTLET
Filing day, Charlie. Last to get on the
ballot in New Hampshire.

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

BARTLET
And I'm going myself. Oh I could send an
aide--

CHARLIE
But you're going yourself?

BARTLET
I'm going myself. Always have, always
will.

CHARLIE
There's nothing left to run for after
this.

BARTLET
Fair enough. Always have, never will. But
I'm going myself. You know why?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE
It's a statement about democracy?

BARTLET
It's a profound statement about
democracy, are you mocking me?

CHARLIE
No sir.

BARTLET
And the thing before wasn't a crack about
my height?

CHARLIE
No, yeah it was.

LEO comes in--

LEO
You all set to leave?

BARTLET
Yes I am. I'm going myself.

LEO
It's a profound statement about
democracy.

BARTLET
It's not a problem. I'm up, I'm back, the
whole thing takes two hours.

LEO
I think it's great and I know how much
you love doing it.

BARTLET
I do love doing it. It's one of my all-
time favorite--

LEO
You can't go.

BARTLET
Why not?

LEO
This is one of those things we've talked
about that sounds worse than it is
because of your inexperience with the
military.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

What is it?

LEO

Okay, the USS Portland is a Sea Wolf class--or big nuclear--submarine.

BARTLET

Yeah.

LEO

It has a crew of 137, is loaded down with highly classified intelligence gathering equipment, and is in the waters off North Korea.

BARTLET

Right.

LEO

We don't have it right now.

BARTLET

What does we don't have it mean?

LEO

Well as you know, with our ships, our planes and our submarines, we keep in pretty close touch with radar, sonar, satellites, radio, encrypted messages...and we don't have the Portland right now.

BARTLET

We don't have it.

LEO

We do not.

BARTLET

And they're in North Korea.

LEO

Yes. Last we heard.

(pause)

So we're gonna set up meetings in the next few hours plus if anything happens I don't like people knowing you were running for election while the boat was out there.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

No, I think I'll go ahead and cancel that trip, Leo, if only to stick around and see how this sounds worse than it really is.

LEO

I'll stick around too.

BARTLET

I think you will.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

3

--as the door busts open and a fuming BARTLET comes in with LEO--

BARTLET

Where's the damn submarine, Nancy?! I don't wanna hear "I don't know," I wanna hear how many people are out there swimmin' around looking for it!

NANCY

See, and I thought you were gonna panic, sir.

LEO

Nancy, I happen to agree with the President, who on military matters by the way, is a lot smarter than you--

BARTLET

Shut up.

LEO

Yeah.

BARTLET

How long can the crew survive down there?

NANCY

Well we don't know what's going on.

OFFICER

You want the worst case scenario?

BARTLET

Yes.

OFFICER

If they're flooding it could be a matter of hours.

BARTLET

How close are these guys to landfall?

NANCY

They're about 4000 yards off the southern coast of Kaesong in Haeju Bay.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET
4000 yards, they get that close?

NANCY
Yes sir, they set a wire tap on a cable
in North Korea's coastal operations zone.

BARTLET
4000 yards?

LEO
Yeah.

BARTLET
Can they send a distress signal?

LEO
They can but they won't if they think
they'll be detected.

BARTLET
They would wait to send a distress signal
and risk their lives?

NANCY
Mr. President, submariners understand
that if they sink it won't be a rescue,
it'll be a recovery. They measure risk
and reward not just in terms of their own
lives but in terms of national interest.

BARTLET
(pause)
Well that's great. I assess the national
interest by the number of people alive
and not dead. You have four hours before
I order the Pacific Fleet into Haeju Bay.

ALL
Thank you, Mr. President/Thank you,
sir/etc.

LEO follows BARTLET out the door and into--

4 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

4

LEO
We need to weigh in with somebody at
State.

BARTLET
I agree.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

LEO

Yes.

BARTLET

Is Peter still recovering?

LEO

Yes.

They head up--

5 INT. STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

5

BARTLET

All right, we'll talk to someone else,
someone we trust.

LEO

Yeah.

BARTLET

Anybody but--

LEO

Albie Duncan.

BARTLET

Right, anybody but him.

LEO

No, I'm saying it's gotta be Albie
Duncan.

BARTLET

Why?

LEO

'Cause he knows what he's talking about.

BARTLET

So does Peter.

LEO

Peter's recovering from heart surgery.

BARTLET

Was it--I don't--was it serious heart
surgery?

LEO

We gotta meet with Albie.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

BARTLET

He's gonna scold me. He's been at the State Department since Truman and he thinks I'm a kid and he outranks me.

They walk into--

6 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

6

LEO

You'll be fine.

BARTLET

I gotta tell him I lost a submarine.

LEO

Yeah.

BARTLET

Can I make something up like, "Say, what if a friend of mine hypothetically lost a--"

LEO

We'll meet with him as soon as he can get here.

BARTLET

Bring a copy of the Constitution, I wanna show him I'm not scared.

BRUNO comes along with CONNIE--

BRUNO

Good morning.

LEO

Hey Bruno, hey Connie.

BARTLET

Bruno, could you devise a campaign strategy that involves beating the crap out of Leo.

BRUNO

Why not.

CONNIE

Yeah.

BRUNO and CONNIE walk into--

7 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

7

--where SAM is waiting.

(CONTINUED)

BRUNO

Let's get started, where's Toby?

SAM

I think he's--

BRUNO

I don't care. These--

BRUNO dumps some campaign leaflets on the table--

BRUNO

--are direct mail leaflets.

(holding one up)

"Bartlet: Hopelessly Liberal"

(another)

"Bartlet: Super-Liberal"

(another)

"Bartlet: Liberal, Liberal, Liberal"

SAM

These aren't coming from our side, right?

BRUNO

No.

SAM

You want to run an ad?

BRUNO

The most dangerous time in an incumbent's campaign is before there's opposition.

CONNIE

Plus the hearings are around the corner.

BRUNO

There's a stealth war going on. Leaflets, flyers, phone trees--

SAM

Who's financing it?

BRUNO

We don't know, probably the insurance lobby, the gun lobby, energy--

CONNIE

There are no reporting requirements for this kind of thing. It's like a silent, deadly pathogen rising from the grass roots.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

CONNIE (cont'd)

(pause)

It means micro-organisms that--

SAM

Thank you.

(to BRUNO)

What do you have in mind?

BRUNO

A black and white photo of a rundown school. A voice over says something like, "For too many children this is a typical classroom. Kids ducking plaster when they should be" what--

CONNIE

Reaching for the stars.

BRUNO

"Republicans in Congress want to cut education to pay for more tax cuts for the wealthy." Then the picture dissolves into full color with the President in a renovated classroom. "Jed Bartlet's fighting to rebuild crumbling schools."

CONNIE

"Tired of holes in our schools and loopholes for billionaires? Vote Bartlet. For America."

SAM

Holes in our schools?

CONNIE

Yeah, I know.

SAM

How much is it gonna cost?

BRUNO

A million five for this one but in the next three months I'll need 8 million for new ads and airtime.

SAM

(laughing)

Goodbye.

BRUNO

Kid--

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

SAM

Work up an ad for 60 bucks and a waffle
and we'll talk.

CONNIE

Sam--

SAM

We need that money in Iowa in nine weeks.

CONNIE

We don't spend it now, we're gonna have
problems in Iowa.

SAM

We don't even know if there's a
challenger yet.

CONNIE

And if there is one we want to scare him
off.

SAM

And you don't think the best way to do
that is to keep the war chest intact?

BRUNO

Well you're talking about hard money.

SAM looks over at BRUNO--

SAM

(pause)

Yeah, I'm talking about hard money, what
are you talking about?

BRUNO picks up a leaflet, then tosses it down on the table.

TOBY walks in--

TOBY

Excuse me--

SAM

Listen, Toby--

TOBY

Hang on. What does 105 million dollars
mean to you?

SAM

What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (4)

TOBY

I just got tipped that the new budget will include an additional 105 million dollars for the National Park Service and that number means something and I can't remember what.

SAM

I don't know.

TOBY

Anybody?

CONNIE

No.

SAM

Listen--

TOBY

Gimme a few minutes, I'll be back.

TOBY exits into--

8 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 8

--where GINGER's coming along--

TOBY

Does 105 million dollars mean anything to you?

GINGER

I'm a simple girl, Toby.

TOBY

Yes. Yes you are.

TOBY continues into--

9 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS 9

TOBY

Bonnie, a hundred and five million?

BONNIE

My answer hasn't changed since the last time you asked me.

C.J. comes in, as happy as she's ever been, with a piece of paper--

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
Toby--

TOBY
C.J.--

C.J.
(suddenly)
"I'm...too sexy for my shirt, too sexy
for skirt, too sexy for the other
things!"

TOBY
What in God's name--

C.J.
He got the question.

TOBY
Who?

C.J.
The Majority Leader.

TOBY
When?

C.J.
Last night, local news, Cleveland, Ohio.
Oh me-oh, oh my-oh, oh Cleveland, Ohio,
he got the question.

BONNIE
What's the question?

TOBY
Why do you want to be President?

BONNIE
And what'd he say?

C.J.
(reading)
"The reason I would run, were I to run,
is I have a great belief in this country
as a country and in this people as a
people that go into making this country a
nation with the greatest natural
resources and population of people,
educated people."

C.J. then respectfully takes a giant imaginary turkey rifle and blows the guy out of a pond, complete with sound effect.

TOBY

I'll make sure we spread it around.

C.J.

(exiting)

"I'm...too sexy for my shoes, too sexy for the blues, too sexy--"

TOBY

C.J.

C.J.

Yeah.

TOBY

The new budget's gonna have an additional 105 million for the National Park Service. Does 105 million mean anything to you?

C.J.

No.

TOBY

Okay.

C.J.

Except it's the same amount as the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts.

TOBY

Yeah.

And TOBY takes a step into his office before the penny drops and he turns around--

TOBY

Get me--

BONNIE

I'll get 'em on the phone.

CUT TO:

10 INT. BABISH'S OFFICE - DAY

10

ABBEY's sitting in a chair, her foot in a cast. BABISH enters--

(CONTINUED)

BABISH
Why Dr. Bartlet.

ABBEY
Don't start with me Oliver.

BABISH
Start what?

ABBEY
All right, you wanna gimme grief about my ankle, do it quickly and get it over with so we can move on with this rectal probe.

BABISH
I don't give you grief, Dr. Bartlet.

ABBEY
And don't Dr. Bartlet me.

BABISH
You know why I call you Dr. Bartlet?

ABBEY
Because I have a medical license?

BABISH
Because you have a medical license, and because when I look at you, I think about health. Goodness, what happened to your ankle Dr. Bartlet?

ABBEY
(beat)
I broke it. Otherwise I'd be ramming it up your--

BABISH
How did you break it.

ABBEY
It was in the newspapers, I'm sure you read about it.

BABISH
I read *Le Monde*, was it in *Le Monde*?

ABBEY
I don't know, I don't speak French.

BABISH
Pity.

(CONTINUED)

ABBEY

I was hiking, Oliver, I was hiking. Are you really that much an enemy of nature?

BABISH

Nature is to be protected from. Nature, like a woman, will seduce you with its sights and its scents and its touch, and then it breaks your ankle. Also like a woman.

ABBEY

What the hell kinda dates are you goin' on, Oliver?

BABISH

I hear ya.

ABBEY

Yeah.

BABISH

But here's what I think you should do, Dr. Bartlet, and I'm speaking to you as White House Counsel to First Lady. I think you should make a national address, encouraging women not to go hiking, or at least not ask me to go with them.

ABBEY

Can we get to work?

BABISH

Jonathan Hawkings, Nina Alva, Maurice Blustein, Jessica Nording, do these names mean anything to you?

ABBEY

Where'd you get them?

BABISH

The Democrats on Oversight.

ABBEY

They're on the witness list?

BABISH

Yeah.

ABBEY

Those are some of the patients involved in malpractice suits against me.

(CONTINUED)

BABISH

How many have there been altogether.

ABBEY

Four were immediately dismissed as nuisance suits. I went to trial on two and won, and one was settled. It's the life of a doctor.

BABISH

From this witness list, it's becoming clear to me what the President's biggest liability is gonna be.

ABBEY

What?

BABISH

You.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 INT. MURAL ROOM - DAY

11

TAWNY RICH, late 30s, is sitting and waiting. The door opens and TOBY comes in and right away--

TOBY

Tawny--

TAWNY

"Throne," by Rain Billings, a photographer from North Dakota whose work consists of polaroids of his dysfunctional family in the bathroom.

TOBY

Yes.

TAWNY

"One Horse-Two Horse" by Marc Moloney who calls himself an installation artist.

TOBY

Did your committee--

TAWNY

What it is is two big screen TVs side by side, one of them with footage of black stallions running in reverse, the other one showing *The Godfather*. "Slut" is a one word poem by Jules Waltz. It's stamped in scarlet on a piece of 40 by 40 black canvas. Here's a woman who gets naked, covers herself completely in chocolate and sings, does that appeal to you.

TOBY

By and large I'm not wild about musicals.

TAWNY

They are all projects funded by Oakenwood during his chairmanship of the Endowment.

TOBY

You're dissolving the Endowment to give more money to National Parks?

(CONTINUED)

TAWNY

"Hold the Lettuce." Lydia Benedict's two bacon cheeseburgers were constructed from pieces of burlap and Rottweiler dung, it's not me, it's the committee I work for.

TOBY

Look--

There's a KNOCK at the door and SAM opens it--

SAM

Excuse me. Hey Tawny.

TAWNY

Sam, have you heard of Andrew Hawkins?

SAM

No.

TAWNY

You funded his performance piece recently which involved him destroying all his belongings outside a Starbucks in Haight Ashbury.

SAM

I've done that a couple of times, I didn't know there was funding available.

TAWNY

Yeah.

SAM

(to TOBY)

Can I talk to you for a second?

TOBY joins SAM out in--

SAM

What's goin' on?

TOBY

Appropriation's trying to eliminate the NEA. What's goin' on in there?

SAM

He thinks it's time to run ads.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY
With what?

 SAM
Soft money.

 TOBY
All right, I'll be in when I can.

 SAM
Oh, hey. You know what? The NEA, that's
105 million.

 TOBY
Yeah.

TOBY goes back inside and SAM heads to the Roosevelt Room.
He's intercepted by C.J.--

 C.J.
Sam.

 SAM
Yeah.

 C.J.
Did you hear?

 SAM
What.

 C.J.
The Majority Leader got the question last
night.

 SAM
And?

C.J. chokes herself with both hands--

 SAM
Get me the transcript.

 C.J.
Yeah, listen.

 SAM
I've gotta get back in there.

 C.J.
We've got an answer, right?

(CONTINUED)

SAM
To what?

C.J.
If he's asked why he wants to be
President, we've got a good answer?

SAM
I'm sure we do, I've gotta get back in
there.

SAM goes back into the Roosevelt Room...C.J. stands there
alone for a moment, then begins singing to herself with a lot
less conviction as she heads off...

C.J.
"I'm...too sexy for my things..."

CUT TO:

13 INT. BABISH'S OFFICE - DAY

13

BABISH
Arlene Neiderlander.

ABBEY
She's the wife of a patient upon whom I
performed a coronary artery by-pass
graft. She filed a wrongful death suit,
claiming he'd died as a result of
complications due to surgery.

BABISH
Did he?

ABBEY
He developed an infection like 2% of CABG
surgeries, in his case, mediastinitis. He
was 74, diabetic, and the infection
spread to his liver. New York Superior
Court Judge Nguyen dismissed the case.
Oliver, draw a line for me from the
malpractice suits to the Committee's
investigation of the President.

BABISH
It's an investigation of you too, Abbey.
You had prescriptions filled in your own
name which you administered daily to the
President--

(CONTINUED)

ABBEY
That in itself--

BABISH
Hang on. You aren't a medical expert, you didn't keep records, you violated medical practices in three states and most important you're his wife which is a violation of the AMA's code of ethics.

ABBEY
And how is this the purview of House Government Reform and Oversight?

BABISH
It's not.

ABBEY
(pause)
They don't have a criminal case against the President, do they?

BABISH
No.

ABBEY
But they can develop one against me.

BABISH
Yeah.

ABBEY
And in going after me they can paint the President.

BABISH
Sure.

ABBEY
Distract him from governing, distract public attention from the campaign.

BABISH
Yeah.

ABBEY
(pause)
It was an infection. It was a liver infection.

BABISH
Should we keep going?

13 CONTINUED: (2)

 ABBEY
 (pause)
Yeah.

CUT TO:

14 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY

14

 SAM
You know what we're talking about here?

 BRUNO
Sure.

 SAM
 (to CONNIE)
Do you know what we're talking about here?

 BRUNO
She knows what we're talking about.

 SAM
I want to make sure Connie knows what we're talking about.

 CONNIE
I know what we're talking about.

 SAM
Fine.

 CONNIE
Sam?

 SAM
Yeah.

 CONNIE
You know what we're talking about, right?

 SAM
We're talking about unlimited, unregulated money that can be raised in staggering amounts.

 CONNIE
Yes.

SAM

Understand, it's not like there's a law that envisioned soft money, it's just that there's no law that specifically bans it. It's a loophole so big you could race the America's Cup through it.

CONNIE

I really do know what we're talking about.

SAM

How can the President oppose soft money one year and then take it the next? Where's he gonna be on campaign finance reform tomorrow?

BRUNO

Exactly where he is today. Leading the charge against it. But in the meantime, Congress and the FEC have been sitting on their hands. Is that our fault?

CONNIE

No.

BRUNO

No. So now Bartlet's supposed to obey a law that doesn't exist? What's next, imaginary street signs?

SAM

Excuse me, but there's such a thing as--

BRUNO

What.

SAM

There's such a thing as--

BRUNO

What.

SAM

(pause)

Okay, let's sit quietly for a moment.

BRUNO

Okay.

There's a long silence before--

(CONTINUED)

SAM
Leadership by example, there's such a
thing as leadership by example.

BRUNO
Yes, it comes right before getting your
ass kicked in an election.

SAM
We're really talking about this, huh?

BRUNO
Yes.

SAM
(pause--then to CONNIE)
And you understand what we're talk--

CONNIE
Yes.

SAM
(pause)
Toby's gonna be in here in a minute.

BRUNO
Good.

CUT TO:

15 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

15

BARTLET and LEO are sitting and waiting...

BARTLET
(pause)
Every single election.

LEO
Yeah.

BARTLET
Legislature. House. Governor...

LEO
Yeah.

BARTLET
President.

LEO
Yeah. It's a statement about democracy.

(CONTINUED)

After a moment, LEO, who hasn't been looking at BARTLET, now looks over to see his boss staring at him--

LEO
I've heard it before, I was just--

CHARLIE
(entering)
Sir?

BARTLET
Is he here?

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

BARTLET
Okay.
(to LEO)
It's a profound statement about
democracy.

ALBIE DUNCAN enters--

ALBIE
Mr. President.

BARTLET
Good morning, Albie.

ALBIE
Good morning. Hello, Leo.

LEO
Good to see you, Albie.

BARTLET
Can I get you anything?

ALBIE
No sir.

BARTLET
Some coffee, a soft drink?

ALBIE
No sir.

BARTLET
Okay.
(beat)
Okay.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET (cont'd)
I've asked you here, Albie, because you are the Assistant Secretary of State. And I, of course, am the President.

ALBIE
(pause)
What have you done?

BARTLET
(to LEO)
You see right away.

LEO
Don't worry about it. Albie, the Pac Fleet Commander's informed us we've lost contact with the Portland.

ALBIE
The Portland's a Sea Wolf class?

LEO
Yeah.

ALBIE
Where is it?

BARTLET
Lake George.

LEO
Somewhere in Haeju Bay.

ALBIE
You've lost a nuclear submarine in North Korea, Mr. President.

BARTLET
Thanks, Albie, that much the National Security Council has made clear to me.

ALBIE
(to LEO)
Is there a chance they've gone quiet?

LEO
Nancy thinks there is.

ALBIE
I'm assuming they didn't radio.

LEO
No.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

And if they were in trouble you see they wouldn't send a distress signal 'cause they might be detected and submariners have a different set of criteria when assessing risk versus reward.

LEO

(pause)

He knows.

BARTLET

Okay, I'll just stand over here.

ALBIE

Where are we?

LEO

The President wants to give four hours before a rescue. We're an hour into it.

ALBIE

You've got the pieces in place.

LEO

Yeah. Who do we talk to in the meantime?

ALBIE

Nobody.

LEO

You sure?

ALBIE

Yes.

LEO

We don't talk to the North Koreans?

ALBIE

And tell 'em what, you've got Casus Belli.

LEO doesn't say anything...

BARTLET

Cause for war. Little thing called Latin. Albie, if we tell North Korea we've violated their waters it could be interpreted as an act of war?

(CONTINUED)

ALBIE

It is an act of war.

BARTLET

We'll tell 'em it's not.

ALBIE

It is. You've violated international law, you've taken provocative action, at best you'd be creating a crisis atmosphere and North Korea's got the fourth largest army in the world. 1968 the USS Pueblo's on an intelligence mission off the DPRK, North Korea attacks with vessels and a MiG jet. The 82 surviving crew are captured, held and tortured for 11 months until we issue an apology for "the grave acts of espionage committed by the U.S. ship." I was there.

BARTLET

(pause--then to LEO)

'Kay, can I talk to you alone for a second?

LEO

Yeah.

They move to an alcove in Leo's office...

BARTLET

(quietly)

Let's not call North Korea just yet.

LEO

No.

BARTLET

Leo. Gut feeling. Has the boat gone quiet?

LEO

Yeah.

(pause)

Trust the Captain, trust the crew.

BARTLET

All right. Three more hours.

LEO

I think he should stay.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET.
Who?

LEO
Albie. He can talk us through some things
and if we need to start making calls
he'll be helpful.

BARTLET
Also he'll be good to have around for
morale 'cause he's Mr. Happy Fun Guy.

LEO
Look--

BARTLET
Albie, I'm gonna ask you to stay around
for a while.

ALBIE
Well then I'll take that soft drink now
if you've got it, Mr. President. A little
Schwepps bitter lemon on ice with a
twist.

BARTLET
(pause--then calling)
Charlie.

CHARLIE comes in--

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

BARTLET
Charlie could you have someone bring some
Schwepps bitter lemon and a copy of the
Constitutional order of succession,
please.

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

CHARLIE exits and we

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

16 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - DAY

16

JOSH is in the middle of dictating a letter to DONNA--

JOSH

New paragraph. "As always, your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Also appreciated was the visit to the White House by some 50 of your constituents on board a bus chartered by your office. Their complaints were respectfully heard by my assistant, and I regret that matters escalated to the point where she felt it necessary to call in the Park Police. You'll be happy to know that their bus has been refueled and that the seniors are on their way home, each having been allowed to keep their security tags as a souvenir."

DONNA

Look--

JOSH

"Signed--"

DONNA

I was just--

JOSH

Do it!

C.J. knocks on the open door--

C.J.

Excuse me.

JOSH

Hey.

C.J.

You got a second?

JOSH

(to DONNA)

Type that.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

DONNA
Look, I was just--

JOSH
Type it!

DONNA
May I use your computer.

JOSH
What's wrong with yours?

DONNA
One of them poured Wheatina on the
keyboard.

JOSH
Go ahead.

JOSH exits with C.J. into--

17 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

17

JOSH
We had a little problem earlier. What's
up?

C.J.
The Majority Leader got the question last
night.

JOSH
And just kept on digging. "We have the
greatest technology of any people of any
country in the world, along with the
greatest, not the greatest, but very
serious problems confronting our people
and I want to be President in order to
focus on these problems in a way that
uses the energy of our people to move us
forward, basically."

C.J.
Yes.

JOSH
It's the basically that makes it art.

C.J.
Listen, the best thing to do is to take a
step back. We can't be seen to be
gloating.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

JOSH
Sure, yeah, we do that when nobody's
looking.

C.J.
Okay.

JOSH
Anything else?

C.J.
No.

JOSH
They poured Wheatina on her keyboard.

C.J.
Listen, how good is our answer.

JOSH
It's good.

C.J.
Really?

JOSH
Yeah.

C.J.
What is it?

JOSH
(pause)
Do we have one?

C.J.
Josh--

JOSH
I'm sure we have one.

C.J.
Will you check?

JOSH
Yes.

C.J.
Will you check today?

JOSH
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
Thank you.

C.J. heads into her office. JOSH stands there a moment before--

JOSH
Okay.

Then heads off as we

CUT TO:

TAWNY
No, the problem is that Oakenwood thinks that the mission of the NEA is to subsidize artists in this country.

TOBY
The mission of the NEA is to subsidize artists in this country.

TAWNY
Oh then that's the problem.

TOBY
In fact it's not to subsidize artists, it's to subsidize art.

TAWNY
Go ahead and explain that distinction in Topeka.

TOBY
They're pretty bright in Topeka. None of the artists you mentioned received any direct money from the Endowment. Why? Because the last time Republicans tried to lose the NEA, not three times ago, but the last time, we got rid of the individual grants.

TAWNY
And your friend Oakenwood found a back door by giving money directly to the museums that put on--Toby, do you like this stuff?

TOBY

Tawny, you'd need the Budweiser Clydesdales to drag my ass to Picasso and Monet. I'm not the guy you want deciding this. And you're not the guy I want deciding this. And I don't know where you get the idea that taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for anything of which they disapprove. Lots of 'em don't like tanks. Even more don't like Congress.

There's a KNOCK at the door and SAM sticks his head in--

SAM

Hi.

TAWNY

(to SAM)

Lisa Mulberry, 28, specializes in placing genitalia in anatomically incorrect--

TOBY

Excuse us.

TAWNY

Sure.

TOBY and SAM step into--

19 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

19

TOBY

Look, we can't spend soft money on a primary ad anyway, so--

SAM

No, he's passing the magic words test.

TOBY

What magic words test?

SAM

U.S. Supreme Court, *Buckley v. Valeo*, the Court created a loophole by ruling that campaign finance laws only apply to communications that in express terms advocate the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for Federal office.

TOBY looks around, then the two of them walk into--

20 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

20

BRUNO

If you don't put Vote Bartlet in the ad you can pay for it with unmarked bills from a bank heist if you want.

CONNIE

And we should know. There's also Footnote 52, where the Court said campaign finance laws only apply to communications with the terms, "vote for," "elect," "support," "cast your ballot for," "Smith for Congress," "vote against," "defeat," "reject" and that's it.

TOBY and SAM are looking at her, wondering how she had that list on the tip of her tongue.

CONNIE

(beat)

I'm savant-like.

TOBY

If it doesn't use those specific words?

BRUNO

It's an issue ad.

CONNIE

You know what they say about money in politics.

SAM

No.

CONNIE

It's like water on pavement.

SAM

Why's it like water on pavement?

CONNIE

(beat)

That's a good--

BRUNO

It finds every crack and crevice.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

The standard oughta be does the ad try to influence the outcome of the election, if so, you can't use soft money period.

BRUNO

Well zippitty-doo-dah, Sam.

SAM

Excuse me?

BRUNO

That isn't what the standard is and I think we should run in the same election as everybody else.

SAM

(pause--then to CONNIE)

You understand what we're--

CONNIE

Yes, for the love of God!!

SAM

(pause)

Toby?

TOBY

I've gotta go back in there. When I come back, show me an ad without the magic words.

TOBY exits and we--

CUT TO:

21 INT. BABISH'S OFFICE - DAY

21

BABISH

Francis Pendleton.

ABBEY

Frank.

BABISH

This was the case you settled.

ABBEY

Yeah.

BABISH

\$58,000 payout from SVM Mutual.

(CONTINUED)

ABBEY

Yeah.

BABISH

Why didn't that come out in the campaign?

ABBEY

There was a confidentiality clause. Nobody would know that figure unless they subpoenaed the Pendleton settlement papers.

BABISH

They did.

(beat)

You performed an atrioventricular canal repair on--

ABBEY

Is there a deal to be made?

BABISH looks up at her...

ABBEY

Is there?

(pause)

Oliver, I raise my right hand, they're halfway to where they want to be. Is there a deal?

BABISH

I can't say they're guaranteed to be interested.

ABBEY

But they might be.

BABISH

If they thought putting you on the stand was too big a risk.

ABBEY

Why would it be a risk for them?

BABISH

You know the story of the desperate man who breaks into the pharmacy to get medicine for his wife?

ABBEY

A life is saved, a window's broken.

(CONTINUED)

BABISH
Right.

ABBEY
And I pay to have it fixed.

BABISH
So they might be interested.

ABBEY
What would they want?

BABISH
At best?

ABBEY
Start with at worst.

BABISH
At worst?

ABBEY
Yeah.

BABISH
Suspended jail sentence of 3 to 5 years.

ABBEY
All right, what's the one right above
that.

CUT TO:

22 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

22

ALBIE, with his Schwepps, is sitting with LEO. BARTLET's
trying to get some work done at his desk.

ALBIE
The USS Glomar. Top Secret Debacle.
Project Jennifer. Glomar goes after
Clementine, the sunken Russian Golf. Six
feet a minute, that's how fast we pulled
her up. Then all of a sudden-- blam--her
claw breaks in two, the Golf dangles
loose, one sub from another, steel
ripping off, everything we needed
including its nuclear missile, its
transmitters, code books, everything,
gone.

(pause)
USS Gudgeon, 1957.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALBIE (cont'd)

Eight Soviet ships caught her, kept her cornered for four days. The oxygen depletion, migraines, fainting, you couldn't cook, you couldn't light a cigarette--

LEO

They smoke in subs?

ALBIE

They used to.

(pause)

The Oklahoma, the Hornet... the Lexington, a CV-2, the USS Wasp...

(beat)

The Wasp was a CV-7 out in the Solomon Islands--

Somewhere in here the two turn when they hear the rhythmic THUMPING of BARTLET's head against his desktop...BARTLET looks up to see them looking at him...

BARTLET

Oh God, I'm sorry, am I still here?

ALBIE

You lost your boat in the wrong part of the world there, Mr. President.

BARTLET

I haven't lost the boat yet, Mr. Secretary and I happen to be the only one in the building who thinks we should be sending the Fast Attack subs right now and I'm an hour away from gathering the NSC and calling Japan.

ALBIE

(pause)

I'm sorry, I wasn't listening, I say you lost your boat in the wrong part of the world, Mr. President.

BARTLET

Leo--

LEO

Albie--

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

It was a UN action, Mr. Secretary. 16 countries were involved in that police action, Mr. Secretary, 33, 34,000 Americans dead, how come we're the only ones still fighting, where'd everybody go?

ALBIE

Well Colombia's fighting a drug war. Ethiopia's trying to feed itself. Belgium, the Netherlands...well they have cheese and chocolate to make, I suppose.

There's a KNOCK and CHARLIE steps in--

CHARLIE

Sir?

BARTLET

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Josh.

BARTLET

Send him in.

JOSH enters--

JOSH

Good afternoon, sir.

BARTLET

Hey, Josh.

ALBIE

Joshua.

JOSH

Good afternoon, Mr. Secretary.

(beat)

Anything going on I should know about?

LEO

We're just catching up.

JOSH

(he understands)

This can wait for another time.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET.

No, give it to me now, I want a distraction.

JOSH

No, that's all right, sir.

BARTLET

Give it to me.

JOSH

It's campaign related.

BARTLET

That's okay.

JOSH

Well the Majority Leader got the question last night.

LEO

He tanked.

JOSH

Yeah, and we're starting to put together an answer for when you get it.

BARTLET

The question.

JOSH

Why do you wanna be President.

BARTLET

I don't.

JOSH

Well we'll put that in the hopper and show you a draft.

BARTLET

Good.

JOSH

Thank you, Mr. President.

JOSH exits--

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET
Leo?

LEO
55 minutes.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

23 INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - DAY

23

JOSH is lying on the couch, C.J.'s at her desk, DONNA's sitting on the side. They're spit balling.

JOSH

This is a time of dizzying change and progress around the world. I'm running for re-election because I want to make sure all our people can share in 21st century jobs that--

C.J.

--jobs and industries we can't even imagine today. Bring the benefits of new medical advancements to all our families--

JOSH

--and harness new technology and the Internet as a force for faster economic growth--

C.J.

--better education and a freer exchange of ideas around the world.

JOSH

Yes.

C.J.

There it is.

JOSH

That's fine.

And DONNA gives 'em a raspberry. They both look at her...

DONNA

Hm?

JOSH

You wanna say something?

DONNA

No.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
(to C.J.)
I thought it was--

DONNA gives 'em another raspberry

JOSH
(to DONNA)
It's got crisp, commanding phrases, it's got active verbs like "harness," it paints a picture of the future--

DONNA
That's why somebody wants to be President? Medical research and the Internet?

JOSH
She's got a point.

C.J.
(pause)
Sometimes you get your face on a coin.

JOSH
Okay, this shouldn't be hard.

CUT TO:

24 INT. MURAL ROOM - DAY

24

TOBY
You guys should charge money for this, Tawny. You should sell tickets and charge money and call it "Journey Back to Germany" where in 1937 they held a show of degenerate art, vilifying art they deemed sick, art that featured insolent mockery of the divine, art that wasted the taxes of the German working people.

TAWNY
Well how much do you think we could get?

TOBY
Look--

TAWNY
I think it's in incredibly bad taste to equate the U.S. Congress with the Nazis.

(CONTINUED)

Me too! TOBY

Toby-- TAWNY

TOBY
In Europe and Japan they're spending between 1.5 and 3 billion on the arts, Congress thinks 105 million is indulgent?!

Yes! TAWNY

TOBY
There is a connection...between the progress of a society and progress in the arts. The age of Pericles was also the age of Phidias. The age of Lorenzo de Medici was also the age of Leonardo da Vinci. The age of Elizabeth was the age of Shakespeare.

TAWNY
Ain't none of these guys da Vinci or Shakespeare.

TOBY
Says you.

TAWNY
Let's wait till November, see how many voters agree with me.

TOBY
National Parks?!

TAWNY
National Park security.

And TAWNY just said the 800 pound word...TOBY's stopped in his tracks...then the wind comes out of his sails...

TOBY
(pause)
Really?

Yeah. TAWNY

TOBY

(pause)

The Parks are safe, Tawny, we spend a lot of money on that.

TAWNY

They could be safer.

TOBY

And the money for that could come from someplace else.

TAWNY

Like where?

TOBY

Like...

TAWNY

New taxes?

TOBY

Yeah.

(pause)

What do you want?

TAWNY

Get rid of Oakenwood. We'll find the money someplace else.

TOBY

Get rid of Oakenwood.

TAWNY

Yeah.

TOBY looks at her...looks down...it's over...

CUT TO:

25 INT. BABISH'S OFFICE - DAY

25

ABBEY

What if I agree to a suspension of my license. I agree to a suspension of my license of the length of Jed's term. If he serves a second term, it includes those years too.

BABISH

All three states?

(CONTINUED)

ABBEY

New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York. I pay a fine. I pay a fine and the violation's recorded in the Practitioners' Databank. And I resign from all boards and organizations. That gives 'em a clear win, right?

BABISH

Yeah.

ABBEY

What do you think?

BABISH

You're not my client.

ABBEY

Yeah, but I'm sayin'--

BABISH

It's not my job to protect your medical license.

ABBEY

What do you think?

BABISH

I think it's good.

ABBEY

Yeah?

BABISH

Any White House Counsel would think it was good.

ABBEY

Will you help me convince the President?

BABISH

No.

ABBEY

Why?

BABISH

'Cause it stinks.

ABBEY

You just said it was good.

(CONTINUED)

BABISH
It stinks.

ABBEY
In a good way?

BABISH
No.

ABBEY
Oliver--

BABISH
You broke some laws, and quite frankly, Abbey, you should be ashamed of yourself, but this investigation isn't about that--

ABBEY
Look--

BABISH
--it's about the criminalization of politics.
(beat)
An attempt to do in the hearing room what they couldn't do at the ballot box.

ABBEY
I understand, but we don't have the luxury of--

BABISH
Abbey, stop eating fruit. Stop eating vegetables. They're doing something bad to you. Fruit and vegetables will seduce you. Like a woman. With their--

ABBEY
Oliver--

BABISH
Truth isn't a luxury. You're gonna go in there, you're gonna swear an oath, you're gonna get asked questions, you're gonna tell the truth. It's the way you stand up and say stop.

ABBEY
(pause)
You should be careful, Oliver. You keep talking like a person they're gonna kick you out of the bar.

(CONTINUED)

BABISH
I've been kicked out of bars before.

ABBEY
I meant--

BABISH
I know what you meant.
(back to work)
Francis Pendleton.

CUT TO:

BRUNO
Okay, instead of "Jed Bartlet's fighting to rebuild crumbling schools," we'll make it, "We're fighting to rebuild crumbling schools--"

CONNIE
--and we've got a picture of the President on the screen.

BRUNO
Yeah, and we change "Vote Bartlet for America" to "Bartlet and the Democrats for America."

SAM
You changed five words.

CONNIE
Magic words.

SAM
They're not magic.

CONNIE
It's an illusion.

SAM
It's a scam.

CONNIE
Yeah.

TOBY enters--

TOBY
Where are we?

SAM

Bruno and Connie have managed to fight their way out of the straight jacket of our campaign finance laws.

BRUNO

It's an issue ad.

SAM

It's a candidate ad with some words changed.

CONNIE

Magic words.

SAM

Connie--

BRUNO

I don't know any other way to fight fire, Toby.

SAM

Why are you so bent on countering these idiot leaflets.

BRUNO

'Cause I'm tired of working for candidates who make me think I should be embarrassed to believe what I believe, Sam, I'm tired of getting 'em elected. We all need some therapy. 'Cause somebody came along and said liberal means soft on crime, soft on drugs, soft on Communism, soft on defense and we'll tax you back to the Stone Age 'cause people shouldn't have to go to work if they don't want to. And instead of saying Excuse me, you right wing, reactionary, xenophobic, homophobic, anti-choice, anti-education, pro-gun, Leave it to Beaver trip back to 50s, we cowered in the corner and said, Please don't hurt me. No more. I don't care who's right, who's wrong, we're both right, we're both wrong, let's have two parties, what do you say?

TOBY

(pause)

I agree.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Toby--

TOBY

So let's stick to the spirit of the law.

SAM

The spirit of the law means no soft money.

TOBY

No, I'm saying let's do an issue ad. An actual issue ad. Let's do a bunch. Health care. Equal opportunity.

CONNIE

School construction.

TOBY

School construction. Does anyone think that raising awareness of crumbling schools won't help us.

SAM

There's actually a reasonable point there, new polls see Republicans better on education with no basis for it.

BRUNO

The ad could spark a debate on the issue which would help.

SAM

And we run a parallel track in our free media--

BRUNO

Yeah.

CONNIE

"Across America our schools are crumbling. Holes in the walls, kids packed into trailers like sardines in a can. Half of America's schools are in disrepair."

TOBY

"And when schools fall down, so do test scores."

BRUNO

This isn't bad, I like this.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Yes.

BRUNO

Why am I nervous?

SAM

It's not amoral.

BRUNO

Yes.

SAM

Okay, "Across America, schools are crumbling--"

CUT TO:

27 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

27

A few OFFICERS and CIVILIANS are in the room now, along with BARTLET and ALBIE. LEO's gone.

ALBIE

...sweeping Wonsan Harbor near Sin-Do Island, turned to starboard, hit a mine--bam--sank. The USS Gurke, the Saint Paul, the Irwin, a DD-794, the John W. Thomason, which took 150 rounds of 107mm air bursts from a shore battery at Hodo Pando in 1953. The Manchester--

BARTLET

Okay.

ALBIE

Beg your pardon?

BARTLET

It's time.

ALBIE

You've still got ten minutes by my watch, Mr. President.

BARTLET

Yeah, we're going now.

(to an OFFICER)

What happens, you contact Pac Fleet. Everybody's getting up and heading out--

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

OFFICER.
And Pac Fleet contacts Ballast Point.

They head out into--

28 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

28

BARTLET
In San Diego, right?

OFFICER #2
Yes sir, we've got a C-141 Starlifter at
North Island, it'll transport the DSRVs.

BARTLET
Tell me what they do.

OFFICER
They'll submerge and approach Whiskey-3
and dock with it.

BARTLET
Whiskey-3?

OFFICER #2
It's Portland's code name.

OFFICER
Once they're secured, the rescue team'll
blow out the docking collar and the
survivors'll exit through the forward
escape trunk in groups of 24.

They head into--

29 INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

29

BARTLET
How many trips will it take?

OFFICER
Six trips to off-load 'em all.

BARTLET
What about injured?

OFFICER
There'll be a medical team, but any
seriously injured'll be MedEvacked to
Tokyo.

They walk into--

30 INT. SITUATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

30

BARTLET

Let's go get 'em, time's up.

LEO

Sir.

BARTLET

What.

OFFICER #3

We have Whiskey-3-Charlie on sat high com.

BARTLET

What does that mean?

LEO

We have the Portland on satellite.

BARTLET

What does that mean?

LEO

We have them.

COMMAND (VO)

Whiskey-3-Charlie, this is Pac Fleet, report your whiskey, over.

PORTLAND (VO)

Pac Fleet, Whiskey-3-Charlie, whiskey is 36.6 degrees north by 110 west. Went deep and quiet to avoid close aboard contact with LUDA-class destroyer. Mechanical situation's at full-op.

COMMAND (VO)

Whiskey-3-Charlie, this is Pac Fleet, roger all, happy hunting.

BARTLET

All right. Okay. There they are. See, they went deep and quiet to avoid a close aboard with a LUDA-class destroyer. What you gotta do in these situations is you trust the captain, you trust the crew.

(to LEO)

Shut up.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Yes sir.

CUT TO:

31 INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - DAY

31

CHARLIE's at his desk as BARTLET walks in...

BARTLET

Hey.

CHARLIE

Good afternoon, sir.

BARTLET

It got filed?

CHARLIE

Yes sir.

BARTLET

It got filed.

CHARLIE

Yes sir.

BARTLET

So I'm on the ballot in New Hampshire.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

BARTLET

Okay.

Clearly BARTLET wants to stick around and shoot the breeze...

BARTLET

(pause)

When Romans ran for the Office of Consul,
did I just see you roll your eyes?

CHARLIE

No sir.

BARTLET

They wore whitened togas to show their
intent. A bit silly, perhaps--

CHARLIE

Perhaps.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

--but it was an act of personal
commission.

CHARLIE

Mr. President.

BARTLET

What.

CHARLIE

I know how much you like to think of
yourself as a man of the people. Roman
references and all. But you're the only
person who can launch our nuclear
weapons. You travel in a fully secured
perimeter. You rescue submarines. Maybe
it's time for it to be okay that an aide
delivers a piece of paper. While you're
at it, maybe balancing your checkbook and
doing your taxes is something you could
farm out as well. History's given you a
bigger responsibility.

BARTLET

(beat)

You're pretty mouthy today.

CHARLIE

C.J.'s waiting inside, sir.

BARTLET walks into--

32 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

32

C.J.'s waiting...

BARTLET

Hey.

C.J.

Good afternoon, Mr. President.

BARTLET

Hey, do you duck when you're getting on
Marine One?

C.J.

No sir.

BARTLET

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
Should I?

BARTLET
I think the blades are high enough.

C.J.
The Majority Leader got the question last night.

BARTLET
I heard.

C.J.
He went to the zoo.

BARTLET
Yeah. Listen, I want you to go easy on him. He's a conscientious and dedicated guy, it's not an easy question.

C.J.
Can you answer it?

BARTLET
Why do I want to be President?

C.J.
Yeah.

BARTLET
I've been thinking about it the last couple of hours. I almost had it.

BLACKOUT

END OF SHOW

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