

SALMON REVISIONS: 1/17/00  
BUFF REVISIONS: 1/17/00  
GREEN REVISIONS: 1/17/00  
YELLOW REVISIONS: 1/17/00  
PINK REVISIONS: 3/30/00  
BLUE REVISIONS: 3/30/00

THE WEST WING

"Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics"

Written by  
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Directed by  
Don Scardino

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THE WEST WING

"Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics"

CAST LIST

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

DONNA  
GINGER  
BONNIE  
STAFFER ED  
STAFFER LARRY  
MARGARET  
LAURIE  
JOEY  
KENNY  
REPORTER #1 (KATIE)  
DANNY  
CAROL  
NANCY \*

POLLSTER  
HASKEL  
RODNEY  
LARSEN  
KATO  
KONRAD  
JANEANE  
REPORTER #2  
FEMALE POLLSTERS  
MITCHEL  
COCHRAN  
LOBELL  
KASSENBAACH

THE WEST WING

"Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

THE PHONE BANK

WHITE HOUSE

Corridors  
Communications Bullpen  
Roosevelt Room  
Toby's Office  
Leo's Office  
Oval Office  
Vestibule  
Sam's Office  
Mrs. Landingham's Office  
Josh's Bullpen  
Joey's Office  
Press Briefing Room  
C.J.'s Office  
Mural Room

LIBRARY \*

EXTERIORS

THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT/DAY

PORTICO - DAY

TERRACE - NIGHT

JANEANE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

"Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics"

TEASER

From the BLACK we HEAR:

MANDY (VO)  
We're five minutes late now.

SAM (VO)  
It's okay.

FADE IN:

1 INT. THE PHONE BANK - NIGHT

1

A high-end telemarketing room. 30 POLLSTERS are at their computer consoles with headsets on. The room is completely silent and more than a little bit tense. It's game time and the game hasn't started yet. MANDY and SAM talk quietly at the front of the room.

TITLE:

Central Phone Banks  
National Strategies Group

MANDY  
I'm just sayin'.

SAM  
We're fine.

MANDY  
This thing--

SAM  
I know.

MANDY  
This thing was supposed to start five minutes ago.

SAM  
We'll get it started.

MANDY  
Here goes the Eastern seaboard.

SAM  
We'll get it started.

(CONTINUED)

MANDY

New York, Boston, Philadelphia,  
Baltimore, Charleston, Atlanta, Miami...  
Those afe'n't very big markets, so I  
wouldn't worry about--

SAM

We'll get it started, Mandy. You've  
gotta learn to relax. It's gonna be 48  
hours, so--

MANDY calls out to a POLLSTER--

MANDY

What are you doing?

SAM

Mandy--

MANDY

What are you doing?

POLLSTER

I was--

MANDY

You were putting gum in your mouth?

POLLSTER

Yeah, 'cause--

MANDY

'Cause it's a good idea to be chewing  
gum while you're taking a poll for the  
President of the United States, that's  
the sound people like to hear on the  
phone.

POLLSTER

The polling hasn't started yet.

MANDY

Well, thank you for pointing that out,  
Mr. Helper.

SAM

Mandy?

MANDY

Yeah?

SAM

These people have done this before.

(CONTINUED)

MANDY

They're not our people.

SAM

They're Kiefer's people, Joey Lucas says they're good.

MANDY

None of them have accents?

SAM

They're all outa the midwest.

MANDY

I'm saying Joey Lucas is deaf and would have no way of knowing if any of these--

SAM

(calling up)

Do any of you people have accents?

Nobody says anything...

MANDY

(calling up)

Do any of you people have the power of speech?

SAM

They're fine.

MANDY

I hear a New York accent, I take off my shoes, I start beating people about the head.

SAM

She'll do it, too, so--

MANDY

What the hell's going on over there?

SAM

At the White House?

MANDY

When are they gonna let me get the show on the road?

SAM

They're having some last minute debate.

(CONTINUED)

MANDY  
About what?

SAM  
The wording of some of the questions.

MANDY  
We've been through 17 drafts of the poll. Kiefer did four drafts, I did four drafts, Joey Lucas did four drafts, Kiefer did another two drafts, Joey Lucas did another two drafts.

SAM  
Mandy--

MANDY  
How much can these people find to debate?

SAM  
Mandy, I've seen these people debate the correct time of day.

CUT TO:

2 INT. WEST WING CORRIDOR - NIGHT

2

--as JOSH and DONNA head to the Roosevelt Room.

JOSH  
It's 7:05?

DONNA  
Yeah.

JOSH  
That's ridiculous.

DONNA  
I'm not making it up.

JOSH  
My watch says ten to seven.

DONNA  
That's 'cause your watch sucks.

JOSH  
My watch is fine.

DONNA  
Your watch says ten to seven.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH  
How do we know it's not ten to seven?

DONNA  
'Cause those big clocks on the wall that  
are run by the U.S. Navy say your watch  
sucks. In fact they say your watch sucks  
in four different time zones.

They walk into--

3 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

3

--where TOBY is in an argument with C.J.--

TOBY  
Question Six is asymmetrical.

C.J.  
Question Six is fine.

TOBY  
(reading)  
"Would you say things in this country  
are going in the right direction or do  
you think they've gotten off on the  
wrong track."

JOSH  
He's got a good point about this.

C.J.  
No, he doesn't.

DONNA  
You guys know it's five after seven?

TOBY  
It should be right direction or wrong  
direction.

C.J.  
Toby--

TOBY  
Direction and track are two different  
words.

C.J.  
Thank you, Funk and Wagnalls.

TOBY  
What'd she just call me?

(CONTINUED)



3 CONTINUED:

GINGER  
Funk and Wagnalls. They make the dictionary.

TOBY  
I know who Funk and Wagnalls are.

BONNIE  
Then why did you ask her?

DONNA  
Guys, it's five after seven.

TOBY  
The question's asymmetrical.

C.J.  
That may be so, but the question originated two decades ago and has proven to be a consistent predictor of the voter's potential behavior, so it stays the way it is.

They head out into--

4 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

4

JOSH  
I have a problem with 14.

C.J.  
What's your problem?

JOSH  
"When making policy decisions, do you think President Bartlet puts the needs of average people first?" Average people is a pejorative phrase and it appears about six times in the polling model.

C.J.  
It may come as a shock to you, but 80 percent of the people in this country would use the word "average" to describe themselves. They do not find the term deprecating, indeed being considered an average American is something they find positive and comforting.

By now, they've made their way into--

## INT. THE ROOSEVELT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

--where LEO, ED, LARRY and some STAFFERS are sitting or standing around the table, papers spread out in front of them. There are several telephones on the table as well.

LEO

C.J.--

C.J.

Yes.

LEO.

"Jed Bartlet cares about people like me."

C.J.

Leo, we went over this--

TOBY

And we need to talk about the asymmetry of Question Six.

C.J.

We really don't.

TOBY

Since when are you an expert on language?

C.J.

In polling models?

TOBY

Yeah.

C.J.

1993. Since when are you an uptight pain in the ass?

TOBY

Since long before that.

LEO

"Jed Bartlet cares about people like me. Agree or disagree."

C.J.

Again, we went over this, and--

LEO

Can't "people like me," when read off a script, be taken to mean people like the interviewer?

(CONTINUED)

ED  
When we ask that question we usually  
say, "People like yourself."

LARRY  
Or "People like you."

ED  
I've seen it both ways.

LEO  
Fellas--

LARRY  
"Yourself" sounds a little softer.

ED  
And softer is bad?

LARRY  
Softer is better.

LEO  
The point is--

C.J.  
The respondent isn't confused by the  
question and separating the respondent  
from the interviewer with, "People like  
yourself" is pejorative so, Ed, Larry,  
you can take that up with Josh, Leo,  
Eastern Standard Time is sitting down  
to dinner. The poll is fine.

JOSH  
It's an important poll, C.J.

C.J.  
I'm aware of its importance. I'm also  
aware that if we don't start the phone  
banks right now, I might not have enough  
time to leak the internals to media  
outlets before we hit the weekend.

TOBY  
There's still the matter--

C.J.  
So it turns out in the last three weeks  
we've climbed out of the hole only we  
can't tell anybody about it till Monday  
'cause we stood here arguing all night  
about asymmetry.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

C.J. (cont'd)  
(beat)  
It's time.

LEO knows she's right...

LEO  
Anybody want to make a prediction?

ED  
We'll hold at 42 percent job approval.

LARRY  
We'll hold steady.

JOSH  
I'll be happy if we hold steady.

TOBY  
We'll drop a few points, but it'll be  
inside the plus or minus.

LEO  
C.J.?

C.J.  
We're gonna go up five points.

LEO  
(beat--smiles)  
The President thinks we're gonna hold  
steady.

C.J.  
The President's wrong.

LEO  
You think?

C.J.  
Yes.

LEO  
Let's find out. Toby, tell Sam to start  
the banks.

CUT TO:

6 INT. THE PHONE BANKS - NIGHT

6

SAM answers a RINGING phone--

SAM  
(into phone)  
Sam Seaborn.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

SAM (cont'd)  
(beat)  
Okay.

He hangs up.

SAM  
(to MANDY)  
Let's get our report card.

MANDY  
(to the GROUP)  
Here we go.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT 7

TITLE:

Monday Night  
3 Hours Into Polling

8 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - NIGHT 8

As SAM walks in wearing his overcoat.

GINGER

Hey, Sam.

SAM

Hey, Ginger.

BONNIE

How's it going over there?

SAM

I popped Mandy with my tranquilizer  
gun, she's doing fine.

GINGER

Bonnie wanted to know why it takes  
48 hours.

SAM

We need 1500 responses.

BONNIE

It takes 30 people 48 hours to make  
1500 calls?

SAM

It takes 'em about 12 hours to make  
1500 calls. We need 1500 responses,  
which means we need to make six-thousand  
calls.

TOBY comes into the bullpen--

TOBY

(motioning into his office)

Sam.

SAM

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

8

8

BONNIE

Only one in four people don't hang up?

SAM

That's if you're lucky.

SAM goes into--

9

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

9

--TOBY closes the door.

TOBY

Tomorrow's the G.W. law school  
graduation.

SAM

Yeah.

TOBY

Were you gonna go see your friend?

SAM

Laurie.

SAM

Yeah.

SAM

I wish you'd call her Laurie.

TOBY

Were you gonna go see her graduate law  
school tomorrow?

SAM

Yeah.

TOBY

You can't.

SAM

(beat)

Okay.

TOBY

I really do believe Steve Onorato  
knows and he's--

SAM

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

--he'll try and use it to embarrass  
us.

SAM

Okay.

(CONTINUED)



TOBY

They know who this girl is, they know she's graduating from law school tomorrow, they know it's someplace you're likely to be. Maybe they want to snap a picture, maybe--

SAM

Laurie.

TOBY

What?

SAM

You called her "this girl."

TOBY

Sam, you can't--

SAM

I said okay, Toby, do you see me arguing with you?

TOBY

No.

SAM

Anything else?

TOBY

No.

SAM gets up and stops at the door--

SAM

Biggest day of her life. Huge day. She put herself through law school. I know there are people in South Carolina who don't like the way she did it, but--

TOBY

Not just South Carolina, Sam.

SAM

Then both Carolinas, Toby, though I've never understood what the hell business it was of--

TOBY

You can't go, Sam.

(CONTINUED)

SAM  
I'm not going.

TOBY  
Thank you.

SAM exits. TOBY goes back to his work for a moment as we:

CUT TO:

10 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

10

LEO's at his desk as MARGARET comes in.

MARGARET  
Leo?

LEO  
Is he here?

MARGARET  
Yeah.

LEO  
Wait in here for a minute, then go  
back out and send him in.

MARGARET  
Okay.

LEO turns his attention back to what he was doing as MARGARET stands in the middle of the room.

MARGARET  
Why do you want me to wait?

LEO  
'Cause I do.

MARGARET  
(beat)  
Okay.

Another silence goes by with MARGARET standing in the middle of the room.

MARGARET  
It feels weird to not be doing anything.

LEO  
(not paying attention)  
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET

(pause)

It feels weird, you know, 'cause the  
instinct--

LEO

Okay, go out and send him in.

MARGARET

Okay.

MARGARET exits. A moment later, BARRY HASKEL is shown in the door. He's a little nervous and out of his element here.

LEO

Barry?

HASKEL

Yes.

LEO

Leo McGarry.

HASKEL

Barry Haskel.

LEO

Good to meet you. Is this your first  
time in the White House?

HASKEL

My first time in the west wing.

LEO

You've been on the Federal Election  
Commission for nine years and no one's  
ever invited you to the White House?

HASKEL

Not the west wing. There've been--I go  
to the annual Christmas party at OEOB.  
Last Christmas the Vice President stopped  
in for a moment and it was very nice.

LEO

Barry, I wanted to talk to you about  
campaign finance reform and specifically  
soft money contributions.

HASKEL

Right. I had a hunch. Could I possibly  
have a glass of fruit juice?

(CONTINUED)

LEO  
Are you thirsty?

HASKEL  
I'll be perfectly honest, Mr. McGarry,  
I've never been called to the office of  
the White House Chief of Staff and I'm--

LEO  
You're a little nervous.

HASKEL  
You know you walk past a dress Marine  
when you come in here and--

LEO  
Rodney?

HASKEL  
I didn't catch his name, but--

LEO  
Rodney's great.  
(calling out)  
Rodney!

RODNEY, a marine corporal, appears in the doorway.

RODNEY  
Yes, Mr. McGarry.

LEO  
Could you do that thing you were  
doing before?

And in a flash, RODNEY flips his rifle around, slaps it,  
smacks it, bangs it on the floor and comes to attention.

LEO  
They work on that for a while.

HASKEL  
Yes.

LEO  
Thanks, Rodney.

RODNEY  
Sure.

RODNEY disappears.

(CONTINUED)

LEO  
Amazing, and that rifle's really  
loaded, too.

HASKEL  
Mr. McGarry--

LEO  
Call me Leo.

HASKEL  
Leo--

LEO  
There's no need to be nervous, Barry.  
We know you're one of us.

HASKEL  
(beat)  
I'm sorry?

LEO  
I say we know you're one of us.  
(beat)  
Six commissioners on the F.E.C. Two  
just resigned, leaving four including  
you. The belief has always been that  
none of the four of you favor a ban on  
soft money contributions, but the truth  
is you do.

HASKEL  
That's not true.

LEO  
Yes, it is. And the way that I know  
that it is is 'cause you said so.  
(checking notes)  
You said so to the Newark Star-Ledger on  
March 13th, 1995--"Money isn't speech"--  
and you said so two years before that to  
the Detroit Free Press--"We must reverse  
the 1978 Regulatory decision allowing  
soft money."

HASKEL  
Those were anonymous quotes.

LEO  
Not anymore.

(CONTINUED)

HASKEL

I gave those quotes on the condition of anonymity.

LEO

Hey, I know how you feel. I went to drug rehab on the condition of anonymity, maybe you read about it in the papers.

HASKEL

Look--

LEO

Barry, Barry. You want to ban soft money. You're one of us. You've been outed.

HASKEL

It never made much--Being outnumbered five to one on the F.E.C.--it never made much sense to me to swim against the grain. I would've been unable to--

LEO

I understand.

HASKEL

It would've been irrelevant in making any kind of--

LEO

Plus you'd have had a hard time getting re-upped by the Senate when your term expired.

HASKEL

Exactly.

LEO

On the other hand, if we hadn't come and found you, you'd probably never have gotten invited to the White House.

HASKEL

(pause)

See, now... when I got the call from your office, my wife and her friends said this was what was gonna happen.

LEO

What's that?

(CONTINUED)

HASKEL

That you'd use the trappings of the White House--that there'd be a sort of intimidation--

LEO

No one's intimidating you, Barry, you're with us. You were wandering for years in the darkness, but we came and found you and welcome back to the pack.

HASKEL

--a coercion, then. And I notice that I'm sitting here in the Chief of Staff's office, with the trappings of the White House--

LEO

Barry--

HASKEL

--and my wife and her friends said it's not uncommon for people to get lightheaded and starstruck and I've heard the same thing from other people, too.

LEO

Nonsense. Lemme show you around the place.

LEO heads for the side door as HASKEL gets up--

HASKEL

If I could just get a glass of water.

LEO

No problem, we keep it in here.

And LEO leads HASKEL through the door and into--

11 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

11

LEO

Mr. President, I'm so sorry to interrupt.

BARTLET

Not at all, we were just having a nightcap.

LEO

I'd like you to meet Barry Haskel of the F.E.C.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET  
This is Attorney General Dan Larsen,  
Treasury Secretary Ken Kato and CIA  
Director Rob Konrad.

LARSEN  
Hello.

KATO  
How are you?

KONRAD  
Good to see you.

BARTLET takes HASKEL's hand and looks him right in the eye.

BARTLET  
Barry, I'm Jed Bartlet. I understand  
you're thinking about helping us out.  
That makes me so happy.

HASKEL  
(beat)  
It's an honor to meet you, sir.

LEO  
Barry's a little thirsty.

BARTLET  
Let's get him a drink.

LEO  
(to HASKEL)  
They'll take good care of you.

As LARSEN, KONRAD and KATO take care of HASKEL, LEO slips  
back toward his office. BARTLET starts after him--

BARTLET  
Leo--

They step into--

They speak quietly with the Oval Office activity in the  
background.

LEO  
Just put him in the boat.



BARTLET

(pause)

This could all be for nothing.

LEO

Yeah.

BARTLET

I mean if the numbers--

LEO

Yeah.

BARTLET

Did we start?

LEO

We put the poll in the field three hours ago.

BARTLET

(beat)

All right.

(beat)

Did the guys make any predictions?

LEO

No, I didn't ask.

BARTLET

Yes, you did.

LEO

They think we're gonna hold at 42, Toby thinks we dropped a few points, but inside the margin.

BARTLET

That could be worse.

LEO

Yeah.

BARTLET

I mean it could be worse than holding  
at 42.

LEO

Yeah.

BARTLET

'Cause if these numbers go down, I'm  
just a guy with Barry Haskel in my  
office.

LEO

I'll stop back in in ten minutes.

BARTLET

A dress marine guarding your office?

LEO

Too showy?

BARTLET

No, my thing is what's he supposed to  
be guarding right now?

LEO

I'll be right in here.

BARTLET

Thanks.

LEO

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEO and BARTLET go their separate ways as we:

CUT TO:

13-14 OMITTED

13-14 \*

15 INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

15

LAURIE, and her friend, JANEANE, are at a table.

JANEANE  
You're graduating tomorrow.

LAURIE  
Ssh.

JANEANE  
You're graduating tomorrow--

LAURIE  
Janeane--

JANEANE  
And yet you're in a library studying.

LAURIE  
There's something called the bar exam.

JANEANE  
Are you taking it tonight?

LAURIE  
No.

JANEANE  
Then let's go out.

LAURIE  
Just gimme ten more--

LAURIE's cell phone starts RINGING in her purse.

JANEANE  
Is that me?

LAURIE  
That's me.

LAURIE starts to get out her phone.

JANEANE  
See, the advantage of being a waitress?

LAURIE  
You don't have to take the bar exam?

JANEANE  
That's right.

(CONTINUED)

15

LAURIE  
You're not always gonna be a waitress.

\*  
\*

JANEANE  
Answer your phone.

\*  
\*

LAURIE  
(into phone)  
Hello.

INTERCUT WITH:

\*

15A INT. SAM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

15A

\*

SAM  
Are you at the library?

\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

LAURIE

It's you.

SAM

Are you at the library the night before--

LAURIE

Three years of law school, I do not understand real estate.

SAM

Nobody does. Listen...

LAURIE-

(beat)

You can't come tomorrow?

SAM

No.

LAURIE

I understand.

SAM

There's reason to believe a staffer in the Majority Leader's office knows about you and knows that I know you. He's probably known for some time, but he's been waiting for the moment when that information would cause the most trouble.

LAURIE

That moment's now?

SAM

Yeah.

LAURIE

That's okay.

SAM

It's not okay, but--

LAURIE

Baby, don't guilt yourself over this. I know you'll be thinking about me.

SAM

I will.

(CONTINUED)

LAURIE

And I'll be thinking about you.

SAM wishes he could say something more...

LAURIE

Sam?

SAM

Yeah. I appreciate your understanding.  
Go knock 'em dead tomorrow.

LAURIE

Okay.

SAM

Okay.

LAURIE hangs up...

LAURIE

He can't make it.

JANEANE

I kinda guessed.

LAURIE

Don't worry about it.

JANEANE

(putting her hand on top  
of LAURIE's)  
That's right, it's your week.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - DAY

16

As SAM comes in.

TITLE:

Tuesday Morning  
11 Hours Into Polling

BONNIE  
Good morning, Sam.

SAM  
Hey, Bonnie. You know what's fun?

BONNIE  
What?

SAM  
The Potomac in the morning.

BONNIE  
Yeah?

SAM  
Jogging along the Potomac. Or skulling.

GINGER  
Were you jogging this morning?

SAM  
No.

BONNIE  
Were you skulling?

SAM  
No, I was sitting on a bench having a  
bagel, but from where I was, both jogging  
and skulling looked good to me.

TOBY comes out of his office--

TOBY  
Bonnie, I need you to arrange a meeting  
with Ross Kassenbach.

BONNIE  
For when?

(CONTINUED)

TOBY  
Soon as possible. And I need the next  
two minutes the President's got.

SAM  
You found one?

TOBY  
Yes.

SAM  
What?

TOBY  
Ambassador to the Federated States of  
Micronesia.

SAM  
(beat)  
Is that a real country?

TOBY  
Yes.

SAM  
The Federated States of Micronesia?

TOBY  
Yes.

SAM  
'Cause it sounds like someplace the  
Marx Brothers would--

TOBY  
It's a real country.

BONNIE  
Toby.

TOBY  
Yeah.

BONNIE  
The President's got two minutes in about  
two minutes.

TOBY  
(to SAM)  
Come with me for this.

CUT TO:



17 EXT. PORTICO - DAY

17

BARTLET walks with C.J. toward the Oval Office--

BARTLET  
Based on what?

C.J.  
Sir--

BARTLET  
Based on what is he making that claim?

C.J.  
Based on a memo, which--

BARTLET  
We've been out there for three weeks.

They walk into--

18 INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

18

CHARLIE  
Good morning, Mr. President.

BARTLET  
Good morning, Charlie. We've been out there--

C.J.  
(to CHARLIE)  
Good morning.

BARTLET  
We've been out there for three weeks.

They walk into--

19 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

19

BARTLET  
*Crossfire, Meet the Press, Charlie  
Rose, The Today Show, The Tonight  
Show, Good Morning Scottsdale--*

C.J.  
Sir--

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

*Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Popular Mechanics*,  
we've been out there saying we're not  
talking about legalization, we're talking  
about treatment.

C.J.

There's a memo. It's the same memo  
that's been generated by every  
administration for 30 years.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

BARTLET

Well, how do you want to handle it?

C.J.

By saying it's the same that's been  
generated by every administration for 30  
years.

\*  
\*  
\*

BARTLET

I don't know, it sounds like we're--

\*  
\*

TOBY and SAM enter--

TOBY

Good morning, Mr. President.

SAM

Good morning, sir.

BARTLET

Steve Onorato's saying I want to legalize  
drugs.

SAM

It's the exact same memo that's been  
generated by every administration for 30  
years.

\*  
\*  
\*

C.J.

That's--

\*  
\*

TOBY

C.J., that's exactly what you should say.

\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

C.J.

Thanks.

\*  
\*

BARTLET

Leo was in here last night, he said you guys predicted we'd hold steady at 42. Were you just being optimistic or you really think we held our ground?

TOBY

I said we might drop a couple, but inside the margin.

SAM

I think we held our ground.

C.J.

I didn't say that, sir.

\*

BARTLET

I'm sorry?

C.J.

I didn't say we'd hold steady at 42, Mr. President, I said we'd gain five points.

\*  
\*

BARTLET

Yeah?

C.J.

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

Well... okay, anybody wanna offer C.J. the odds?

TOBY and SAM smile...

BARTLET

(to C.J.)

Talk to the press.

(MORE)

BARTLET (cont'd)  
Tell 'em every administration for 30  
years has generated  
that memo.

C.J.  
Yes, sir.

BARTLET  
That's it.

C.J.  
Thank you, Mr. President.

C.J. exits.

BARTLET  
What do you got?

TOBY  
The Federated States of Micronesia.

SAM  
Toby says it's a country.

BARTLET  
It is a country. You know where?

TOBY  
I assume it's a small island in the  
South Pacific.

BARTLET  
It's actually 607 small islands in the  
South Pacific. Interestingly, while its  
total land mass is only 270 square miles,  
it occupies more than a million miles  
of the Pacific Ocean. The population's  
125,000 and the U.S. Embassy is located  
in the state of Pohnpei and not, as many  
people believe, on the island of Yap.

TOBY  
(pause)  
Why would a person have that information  
at their disposal?

BARTLET  
Parties.

TOBY  
Sir--

BARTLET

I looked at the Federated States of  
Micronesia, I can't fire our Ambassador.

TOBY

Why not?

BARTLET

Somebody's gonna ask me why I fired him  
and I'm not gonna have the answer they're  
looking for.

TOBY

Sam's got you covered.

BARTLET

How?

SAM

You're not gonna fire the Ambassador,  
you're gonna promote him.

BARTLET

To what?

SAM

Ambassador to Paraguay.

BARTLET

What happens to the Ambassador to  
Paraguay?

SAM

You make him Ambassador to Bulgaria.

BARTLET

I like this, 'cause if everybody keeps  
moving up one, then I get to go home.

SAM

The Bulgarian Ambassador is believed to  
be having an affair with the daughter of  
Prime Minister Toder Lukanov.

BARTLET

The Ambassador's Ken Cochran, isn't it?

TOBY

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

He's having an affair with the daughter  
of the Bulgarian Prime Minister?

(CONTINUED)

TOBY  
Who the State Department is saying is  
upset.

BARTLET  
I can imagine.

SAM  
Do you know him, sir?

BARTLET  
The Bulgarian Prime Minister?

SAM  
Ambassador Cochran.

BARTLET  
I know his wife.

SAM  
Ouch.

BARTLET  
I've gotta fire Ken Cochran?

TOBY  
Yes, sir.

BARTLET  
All right, but I don't want it to be  
because of the girl.

SAM  
Why not?

BARTLET  
I know his wife.

TOBY  
Sir, we can create legitimate grounds  
for incompetence.

BARTLET  
Well, it looks to me like there are  
legitimate grounds for incompetence, but  
come up with different ones, would you.

TOBY  
Yes, sir.

BARTLET  
(pause)  
All right, let's do it.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY  
Thank you, Mr. President.

SAM  
Thank you, sir.

TOBY and SAM exit as--

BARTLET  
(shouting)  
Charlie!

CHARLIE  
Yes, sir.

BARTLET  
I need to meet with Ambassador Cochran.  
He can be found in his office at the U.S.  
Embassy in Bulgaria, or not. Either way,  
I'd like the State Department to get his  
ass on a plane and have it in this office  
tomorrow.

CHARLIE  
Yes, sir.

BARTLET  
Thank you.

CHARLIE  
Is that Ken Cochran, Mr. President?

BARTLET  
Yeah.

CHARLIE  
Okay.

BARTLET  
What?

CHARLIE  
I'm sorry, sir?

BARTLET  
It looked like when I said it was Ken  
Cochran that you knew him.

CHARLIE  
No, sir.

BARTLET  
Okay.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE  
Thank you, Mr. President.

CHARLIE exits as we:

CUT TO:

20 INT. JOSH'S BULLPEN AREA/JOEY'S OFFICE - DAY

20

JOSH is arguing with JOEY LUCAS as KENNY interprets.

JOSH  
They might put it on the table.

JOEY  
They won't put it on the table.

JOSH  
They might.

JOEY  
They won't.

JOSH  
I'm saying if they do put in on the  
table--

JOEY  
They won't.

JOSH  
If they do--

JOEY  
They won't.

JOSH  
Is there any possibility you're gonna  
let me finish a sentence? Is there any  
chance at all that that's gonna happen?

JOEY  
Don't raise your voice to me.

JOSH  
How the hell do you know if I'm raising  
my voice to you?

JOEY  
*I guessed.*

(CONTINUED)



JOSH

Thank you. You are here to give me a counter-argument for English as the official language of the United States, you are not here to speculate on whether or not the Republicans'll put the issue on the table.

JOEY

Okay.

JOSH

Good.

JOEY

(signing to KENNY)

**They won't.**

JOSH

What'd she just say?

KENNY

They won't.

JOSH

Okay, look--

DONNA comes along--

DONNA

Josh.

JOSH

What.

DONNA

You wanted me to tell you when C.J. started talking about the drug memo.

JOSH

C.J. started her briefing?

DONNA

A half hour ago.

JOSH

The briefing doesn't start until eleven.

DONNA

Guess what?

JOSH

My watch sucks?

(CONTINUED)

DONNA  
Yes, indeed.

JOSH  
(to JOEY)  
I'll be back. And when I get back,  
you're gonna argue with me. Only we're  
gonna argue about the things I want to  
argue about, and you're gonna do your  
best not to annoy me too much.

JOEY  
It's almost hard to believe you're not  
married.

JOSH  
Oh, many have tried.

JOEY  
*See you later.*

JOSH and DONNA start toward his office--

JOSH  
Did Toby find a country?

DONNA  
The Federated States of Micronesia.

JOSH  
Is that a real country?

DONNA  
Yes. It's located 2500 miles southwest  
of Hawaii, where you've never taken me.

JOSH  
When was I supposed to take you to  
Hawaii?

DONNA  
Anytime, it's something bosses do.

They walk into--

21 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

21

--where C.J.'s on the closed-circuit monitor with the sound  
muted.

JOSH  
The Federated States of Micronesia?

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

They have some of the best scuba diving  
in the world.

JOSH

Okay.

DONNA

The mantas, for instance, on the island  
of Yap, are prized among those who--

JOSH

Stop talking now.

JOSH has hit the remote and we can now HEAR C.J.'s briefing--

C.J. (FROM TV)

...with the point being that the  
mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines  
applied to crack cocaine as opposed to  
powder cocaine is fairly transparently  
racist.

DONNA

A guy takes his assistant on a quick trip  
to Maui. It's not, like, unheard of.

JOSH

Ssh.

CUT TO:

22 INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - SAME TIME

22

C.J.

Hang on.

REPORTER #1 (KATIE)

C.J.--

C.J.

Hang on, Katie. Mandatory minimums  
require a federal judge to sentence  
anyone convicted of possessing five grams  
of crack to at least five years in  
prison. It takes one hundred times as  
much powder cocaine and 20 times as much  
heroin to get that sentence. Seventy  
percent of all drug users are white. 80  
percent of all crack users are black.  
Federal mandatory minimums for crack  
users are a war on the black community.  
Danny.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Is the White House making a crusade out of defending the rights of drug users?

C.J.

Oh, please. Katie, you had a question.

KATIE

Do you have--

DANNY

Hang on, C.J., I was asking if--

C.J.

The White House is committed to reversing the devastating effect of drug abuse on our society. We believe the best way to do that is to treat drug addiction as what the AMA has said it is, which is a medical problem. We do not believe in a phony war on drugs, the chief accomplishment of which would be to either kill or incarcerate black drug users.

REPORTER #2

C.J., you're aware--

C.J.

--that Steve Onorato's saying the White House supports legalization.

REPORTER #2

Yes.

C.J.

How surprising that in the midst of an important debate, the President would be accused of being soft on drugs. Steve Onorato has a memo written by the Assistant Surgeon General. I'd be happy to produce for you similar memos written for every President in the last 30 years, including four Republicans. That's all, thank you, everybody.

C.J.'s gathering up her papers... DANNY walks to the podium.

DANNY

Hi.

C.J.

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

There wasn't, I don't think, a huge reason to snap at me.

C.J.

It was a ridiculous question.

DANNY

No, it wasn't.

DANNY follows C.J. out into--

23 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

23

C.J.

Is the White House crusading for the rights of drug dealers? You know that's not--

DANNY

I do know that's not what you meant, but I don't count on everybody always understanding what the hell comes out of your mouth when I can't even do it half the time.

C.J.

So you were just helping out.

DANNY

Yes. And you can't stay pissed at me forever.

C.J.

Let's find out.

DANNY

Mandy's thing went away, C.J. You see anybody writing about it? You hear anybody talking about it? Is there really a need to continue punishing me for--

C.J.

Hang on.

They walk into--

24 INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

24

C.J. closes the door.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.  
They talk about it here, Danny, they talk  
about it here.

DANNY  
And they blame you.

C.J.  
(pause)  
They don't say it.

DANNY  
But they blame you.

C.J.  
(beat)  
Yes.

DANNY  
And you think you've let them down.

There's a knock on the door and CAROL steps in--

CAROL  
C.J., you're late for the G-7 briefing.

C.J.  
I have to go back to work.

DANNY  
Okay.

DANNY exits. C.J. stands still for a moment...

CAROL  
C.J.?

C.J.  
Carol, call the phone banks and check  
in with the poll.

CAROL  
I checked in with the poll a half-hour  
ago.

C.J.  
Check again.

C.J. heads out as we:

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT 25

TITLE:

Tuesday Night  
27 Hours Into Polling

26 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - NIGHT 26

MARGARET comes in.

MARGARET

Leo.

LEO

Yeah.

MARGARET

C.J.'s here.

LEO

Okay.

MARGARET

You wanna hear a joke?

LEO

Okay.

MARGARET

You know why they only eat one egg for  
breakfast in France?

LEO

Why?

MARGARET

'Cause in France, one egg is an oueff.

(pause)

Okay, C.J.'s here.

LEO

Okay.

MARGARET exits and C.J. comes in.

C.J.

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

LEO  
Hey.

C.J.  
The lid's on.

LEO  
You told me.

C.J.  
Hm?

LEO  
You called me an hour ago and told me it  
was a full lid.

C.J.  
Yeah. I'm gonna go over to the phone  
banks and check in with the poll.

LEO  
Okay.

C.J.  
Leo, this is a small thing and I hate  
to bring it up.

LEO  
What?

C.J.  
I was in with the President this morning.  
And he mentioned that you told him that  
when you asked for predictions, everyone  
said we'd hold steady at 42.

LEO  
Yeah.

C.J.  
But I didn't say that, I said we'd go  
up five points.

LEO  
(beat)  
I meant in general. On average.

C.J.  
Yeah.

LEO  
C.J., like lopping off the score from  
the East German judge.

(CONTINUED)



C.J.  
Leo, it wasn't women's intuition, I think  
it's strange--

LEO  
Don't read too much--

C.J.  
I'm saying I think it's strange that my  
take wasn't included in--

LEO  
And I'm saying don't read too much  
into it.

C.J.  
Okay.

LEO  
All right, anything else?

C.J.  
No, I'm gonna go check the phone banks.

C.J. exits as we:

CUT TO:

27 INT. PHONE BANKS - NIGHT

27

While the 30 POLLSTERS work the phones, JOSH and JOEY, with  
KENNY interpreting, are in the middle of an argument.  
MANDY's sitting in the corner.

JOSH  
Theodore Roosevelt said--

JOEY  
Josh--

JOSH  
Lemme tell you what Theodore Roosevelt  
said.

JOEY  
What do I care what Theodore Roosevelt  
said.

JOSH  
'Cause the Republicans are gonna bring  
it up.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

JOEY

The Republicans aren't gonna put it on the table.

JOSH

He said, "We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language, for we intend to see that the crucible turns our people out as Americans, and not as dwellers in a polyglot boarding house.

KENNY

What kind of boarding house?

JOSH

(to JOEY)

Polyglot. It means having knowledge of or speaking--

JOEY

I know what polyglot means.

JOSH

Then why'd you ask me?

JOEY

He asked you.

JOSH

My point is--

MANDY

Would the two of you shut up. Or three of you. However many people are talking, could half of you stop.

JOSH

(pause)

Mandy's wound a little tight during polling windows.

C.J.'s entering--

C.J.

What are you all doing here?

JOSH

Here's another laid back member of our team.

C.J.

What are you all doing here?

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Well, Mandy's supposed to be here, Joey's here 'cause Al Kiefer asked to her to check in--

C.J.

And what are you doing here?

JOSH

I'm kind of in charge of morale.

C.J.

Josh--

JOSH

The calls are going--

C.J.

I'm trying to meet a deadline, Josh, I've got a 48 hour window and you can't stand around distracting the female callers.

JOSH

(to the POLLSTERS)

Have I been distracting the female callers?

FEMALE POLLSTERS

No.

C.J.

Josh--

JOSH

Not even a little bit?

C.J.

This is what I'm--

JOSH

The window's fine! It's a good response rate! They're making their quotas! Stop bothering me!

C.J.

(beat)

Did Josh mention he's in charge of morale.

JOSH

Yes I am, and as such, I'm going out to get coffee for everyone, 'cause a few hundred volts of caffeine is just what the doctor ordered around here.

(to JOEY)

And you should've been more impressed that I was able to quote Theodore Roosevelt.

JOEY

I was impressed you knew what polyglot meant.

JOSH

760 SAT word, baby.

JOSH exits.

C.J. steps out onto--

28

**EXT. TERRACE - CONTINUOUS**

28

C.J. stares into the Washington night for a moment before JOEY and KENNY step out to join her. C.J. doesn't notice them. JOEY taps her on the shoulder.

C.J.

Hi.

JOEY

Hi.

C.J.

I didn't see you there.

JOEY

It really is going fine. It's a good response rate. You'll be able to show the President something in 24 hours.

C.J.

(beat)

Good.

JOEY

(pause)

I think you're gonna do fine.

C.J.

Josh and Toby and Sam think the 42 percent job approval's gonna hold.

(CONTINUED)

JOEY  
For now, that's doing fine.

C.J.  
42 percent job approval isn't--

JOEY  
*I said for now.* For now it's fine. The last poll, with the 42 percent approval and the unfavorables in the 40s, that was only three weeks ago.

C.J.  
But we've been incredibly aggressive in the last three weeks. Drugs, the F.E.C., crime, gay rights--We've been incredibly vocal. To stay at 42 percent--

JOEY  
*You were in a downward spiral.*

C.J.  
(beat)  
I'm sorry, I didn't under--

JOEY  
*You were in a downward spiral. Holding at 42 is a victory.*

C.J.  
I told the President that we'd gain five points.

JOEY  
*That might be optimistic.*

C.J.  
I don't think it is. Press has been good on the local level. We've done well on the talk shows and we got favorable editorials in New York, Chicago, Dallas, Seattle and San Francisco.

JOEY  
*So what are you worried about?*

C.J.  
I don't want to have to tell the President I was wrong.

JOEY  
You think the President's gonna lose  
faith in you 'cause you guessed wrong?

C.J.  
I'm not talking about the prediction,  
I'm talking about--

JOEY  
--the spiraling numbers.

C.J.  
(beat)  
I'm one of the reasons they were  
spiraling in the first place.  
(beat)  
And I was one of the architects of the  
media campaign the last three weeks.  
(beat)  
I don't know how many more times I can  
walk into the Oval Office and tell the  
President I was wrong. I don't know how  
many more of those I get.

We HOLD on them a moment before we:

CUT TO:

29 EXT. JANEANE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

29

SAM is waiting on the front stoop with a shopping bag next to  
him. LAURIE, dressed in her graduation gown, and JANEANE,  
carrying a bottle of champagne, make their way up the street.

SAM  
You are both drunk and disorderly.

LAURIE  
(seeing him)  
Oh my God!

SAM  
Happy graduation.

LAURIE  
How did you--

JANEANE  
Surprise.

LAURIE  
Janeane--

(CONTINUED)

SAM

We worked in cahoots.

JANEANE

We did.

LAURIE

You planned this?

(to JANEANE)

This is why you dragged me back to  
your apartment?

JANEANE

Okay, are you glad I dragged you back  
to my apartment?

LAURIE

Yes.

JANEANE

Then be quiet. I will be upstairs.

SAM

G'night, Janeane.

LAURIE

G'night, Janeane.

(to SAM)

What'd you get me?

SAM

A graduation gift.

LAURIE

Is it a briefcase? Did I just ruin it?  
I only asked because a briefcase is the  
typical law school graduation gift. And  
when I say typical, I don't mean boring,  
I just mean basic. And when I say basic,  
I don't mean boring, either.

SAM

(beat)

Open the box.

LAURIE opens the box and takes out a pen...

LAURIE

You bought me a pen?

SAM

It's a good one. It writes upside down.  
You can use that pen in outer space.

(CONTINUED)

LAURIE  
Where's my present?

SAM reaches into the shopping bag and pulls out a leather  
briefcase with a ribbon around it.

SAM  
Happy graduation, counselor.

LAURIE  
It's beautiful.

They hold each other...

LAURIE  
Thank you.

SAM  
(whispering in her ear)  
Way to go, Laurie.

They break apart....

LAURIE  
Thank you.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. JANEANE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

30

SFX: We see SAM and LAURIE together through a TELEPHOTO LENS  
and HEAR the fast clicks of a camera.

CUT BACK TO:

31 EXT. JANEANE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

31

SAM  
I've gotta go. Are you spending the  
night here or are you--

LAURIE  
No, I'm gonna stay upstairs with Janeane.  
She's got a--

(CONTINUED)



And at that moment, the ENGINE in a car across the street turns over. SAM whips around. The HEADLIGHTS go on and the car drives off.

After a moment...

SAM  
Did you know that car was there?

CUT TO:

32 INT. PHONE BANKS - NIGHT

32

As the polling continues, JOSH, C.J., MANDY, JOEY and KENNY are sipping the coffee that JOSH brought back.

JOSH  
Alexis de Tocqueville, who was a  
French politician and--

JOEY  
I know who Alexis--

JOSH  
It was for Kenny!  
(Pause)  
He said that--

A cell phone RINGS.

C.J.  
I think that's me.

JOSH  
I'm talking about Alexis de Tocqueville.

C.J.  
I'll get the notes from somebody.

C.J. answers her phone and takes it to the side as JOSH continues.

JOSH  
Alexis de Tocqueville, and by the way,  
his full name was Alexis Charles Henri  
Clerel de Tocqueville--

C.J. hangs up the phone.

C.J.  
Josh.

\*

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Yeah.

C.J.

That was Sam. We have to go back to the  
White House.

JOSH

What happened.

C.J.

I don't know yet.

C.J. and JOSH head out as we:

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

33

TITLE:

Wednesday Morning  
36 Hours Into Polling

CUT TO:

33A INT. SAM'S OFFICE - DAY

33A

SAM's sitting at his desk in his clothes from the night before. His tie hangs over the chair. After a moment, TOBY comes in.

TOBY  
He's ready to see us.

SAM  
What'd he say?

TOBY  
He said get your ass over here, let's go.

SAM grabs his tie as they head out into--

33B INT. BULLPEN/CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

33B

SAM  
I've drafted a letter of resignation.

TOBY  
Well, you're not gonna give it to him, Sam, 'cause that would deny me the pleasure of throwing you out through a plate glass window.

SAM  
You have every right to say that.

TOBY  
Thank you for acknowledging that right.

SAM  
Toby--

TOBY  
I should keep you on a leash, you know that?

(CONTINUED)

LEO's passing in the other direction--

SAM

Leo--

LEO

I'm talking to C.J. then I'm talking to you.

LEO's gone.

TOBY

Ten foot chain around your neck, I bolt it to your desk, I have someone come in and feed you.

They walk off as we:

CUT TO:

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

34

C.J.'s on the phone at her desk.

C.J.

(into phone)

I'm gonna check, but I'm almost certain the President was referring to the Nasdaq composite and not the 30-year treasury yield.

LEO comes in the office--

C.J.

(into phone)

Not the Dow Industrials, the Nasdaq Composite.

(beat)

Okay, someone here's gonna get back to you.

C.J. hangs up.

LEO

How do you not tell me until this morning?

C.J.

Leo--

LEO

How do you not call me last night?

(CONTINUED)

C.J.  
We didn't know anything last night.

- LEO  
Sam called you.

C.J.

That's right, he said he met the girl and there was a suspicious car. I'm not gonna call up the White House Chief of Staff in the middle of the night because someone started a car.

LEO

C.J.--

C.J.

I was handling it, Leo. It took me three hours to confirm there was a picture and another hour to find out who has it.

LEO

Who has it?

C.J.

The *London Daily Mirror*. They paid a friend of hers \$50,000 to set it up and confirm that she was a call girl.

LEO

When is it running?

C.J.

They'll run it later today. American press'll have it tomorrow morning.

LEO

(pause)

He was giving her a graduation present?

C.J.

Yeah.

LEO

(pause)

Work the *Post* and the *Times*.

C.J.

Yeah.

LEO walks out and we:

CUT TO:

35 EXT. PORTICO - DAY

35

BARTLET's walking toward the office with TOBY and SAM.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

BARTLET  
You never paid this girl to have sex?

SAM  
No, sir.

TOBY  
They don't have that kind of  
relationship, sir. Except once, and that  
time he didn't know what was happening.

BARTLET  
Well, that makes two of us.

They walk into--

36 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

36

TOBY  
Mr. President, Sam has always been  
completely above-board about his  
relationship with Laurie. He told us--

BARTLET  
Laurie's the girl?

SAM  
Yes, sir.

TOBY  
He told us about it right after his first  
contact with her nine months ago. The  
fact that she was putting herself through  
law school under circumstances that were  
less than good has to mean something, as  
does the fact that Sam's word is  
unimpeachable.

BARTLET  
Toby, are you in here sticking up for  
Sam?

TOBY  
I know it's strange, sir, but I'm feeling  
a certain big-brotherly connection right  
now. You know, obviously I'd like that  
feeling to go away as soon as possible,  
but for the moment I think there's no  
danger in the White House standing by Sam  
and aggressively going after the people  
who set him up.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

Sam, you're gonna spend the morning in the White House Counsel's office finding out if you broke any laws.

SAM

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

You should also call the girl. What's her name?

TOBY/SAM

Laurie.

BARTLET

You should call her and tell her the White House regrets the phenomenal inconvenience she's about to experience.

SAM

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

You might want to point out to her that she probably has a cause of action against the paper.

SAM

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

Tell her if she passes the bar exam, the Attorney General's gonna see to it she's admitted to the bar.

SAM

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

And tell her the President of the United States says congratulations on getting her degree.

SAM

(beat)

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

That's all.

SAM

Thank you, Mr. President.

(CONTINUED)



36 CONTINUED: (2)

SAM exits.

BARTLET and TOBY look at each other for a moment...

BARTLET

It's nice when we can do something for prostitutes once in a while, isn't it?

TOBY

Yes, sir.

CHARLIE enters--

CHARLIE

Mr. President?

BARTLET

We're ready to go?

CHARLIE

Ambassador Cochran's in the mural room and Ted Mitchel's waiting outside.

BARTLET

Where are we putting Lobell and his people?

CHARLIE

In the Roosevelt Room.

BARTLET

(to TOBY)

He's gonna have a lot of staff with him.

TOBY

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

I never know what any of them do, but there they are, wherever Lobell goes, 14, 15 guys.

CHARLIE

Mr. President?

BARTLET

(to TOBY)

I'm gonna do this thing first, I'll see you across the hall.

TOBY

(exiting)

Thank you, Mr. President.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET  
(to CHARLIE)  
Who's in the mural room?

CHARLIE  
Ken Cochran.

BARTLET  
You did it again.

CHARLIE  
I'm sorry, sir?

BARTLET  
When you said Cochran's name, it was  
like you knew him.

CHARLIE  
No, sir.

BARTLET  
I usually have a sense about these  
things.

CHARLIE  
Yes, sir.

BARTLET  
A finely honed sense.

CHARLIE  
It's failing you at the moment, sir.

BARTLET  
Cochran's in the mural room?

CHARLIE  
Yes, sir.

BARTLET  
Why don't you go sit with him and send in  
Ted Mitchel.

CHARLIE  
Yes, sir.

CHARLIE exits and a moment later TED MITCHEL comes in.  
They're old friends.

BARTLET  
Ted.

(CONTINUED)

MITCHEL  
Mr. President.

They embrace.

BARTLET  
You look good.

MITCHEL  
I feel good.

BARTLET  
How's Mary?

MITCHEL  
She sends her love.

BARTLET  
I have something to do in the next room,  
but lemme just tell you that I need a  
favor.

MITCHEL  
Of course, sir.

BARTLET  
I need you to hire a guy.

MITCHEL  
Who, sir?

BARTLET  
The former Ambassador to Bulgaria.

MITCHEL  
Who's that, sir?

BARTLET  
Ken Cochran.

MITCHEL  
Isn't Ken Cochran the current Ambassador  
the Bulgaria?

BARTLET  
Not for long. Look, he's a good man,  
a smart man, I think he'd make a very  
good corporate officer.

MITCHEL  
Why's he being fired?

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED: (5)

36

BARTLET  
Gross incompetence. I'll be right back.

BARTLET heads out as we:

CUT TO:

36A INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

36A

NANCY  
Good morning, sir.

BARTLET  
Good morning, Nancy.

NANCY  
Senator Lobell's in the Roosevelt Room.

BARTLET  
I'll be with him in a minute.

He walks into--

37 INT. THE MURAL ROOM - DAY

37

KEN COCHRAN'S sitting on the couch and CHARLIE'S standing off to the side as BARTLET comes in.

COCHRAN  
Mr. President.

BARTLET  
Ken.

COCHRAN  
Good to see you, sir.

BARTLET  
Thanks for flying back on such short notice.

COCHRAN  
Of course, Mr. President, what can I do for you?

BARTLET  
Resign.

COCHRAN  
(beat)  
Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

You've been having an affair with the daughter of the Prime Minister and that doesn't work for me, but neither does a newspaper article saying you're having an affair with the daughter of the Prime Minister, so I need you to resign. You're gonna get a job offer from Ted Mitchel for a lot more money than you're making now. That's why you left the embassy. I'll be back in a minute.

BARTLET exits. A stunned COCHRAN is standing there alone, except for CHARLIE on the side of the room.

COCHRAN

(pause)

Well, this is outrageous.

(pause)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

COCHRAN (cont'd)

This is outrageous and I'll explain that to him when he comes back in here.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

(pause)

Have we met?

CHARLIE

Sir?

COCHRAN

You look very familiar to me, have we met?

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

Where?

CHARLIE

I was a waiter at the Gramercy Club.

COCHRAN

Charlie.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

Charlie.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

Well, it's good to see you again.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

Though under strained circumstances, which when the President comes back, I can--

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

(CONTINUED)

COCHRAN

(pause)

I resigned my membership at the club, by  
the way.

CHARLIE

Did you?

(CONTINUED)