THE WEST WING

"Five Votes Down"

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Story by
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and
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Directed by
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First Draft

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THE WEST WING

"Five Votes Down"

CAST LIST

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

CHARLIE
CATHY
MRS. LANDINGHAM
BONNIE
DONNA MOSS
MARGARET
LAURIE *

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

NEWSCASTER #1
NEWSCASTER #2
NEWSCASTER #3
THE WEST WING
"Five Votes Down"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

CAPITOL HILTON
BALLROOM
CORRIDOR
ANOTHER CORRIDOR
KITCHEN

LEO'S HOUSE

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

EXTERIORS

CAPITOL HILTON - NIGHT

LEO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY/NIGHT
(EST)

THE CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

THE REFLECTING POOL - LATE
AFTERNOON

LEO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HOYNES' OFFICE TERRACE - DAY

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

WASHINGTON - NIGHT (EST)

THE CAPITOL BLDG
KATZENMOYER'S OFFICE

LEO'S CAR

LEO'S HOUSE

BASEMENT CORRIDOR AT OEOB
*Important Note*

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

--AS
TEASER

SUPERTITLE:

Against a BLACK SCREEN, we SEE the word:

MONDAY

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

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

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

FADE IN:

INT. CAPITOL HILTON/BALLROOM – NIGHT

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

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

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

LEO
(into phone)
How did it happen?
(beat)
How did the wheels come off this thing?

A VOLUNTEER “SHH”‘s LEO--

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

BARTLET
Folks, you gotta write a letter.

LEO
(to JOSH)
We lost five votes.

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
What?

VOLUNTEER
Ssh.

LEO
We lost five votes.

JOSH
Gimme names.

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

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

A huge round of APPLAUSE. BARTLET lets the applause die down until there's nothing but silence, making sure the stage is nice and set for the ramp-up to the final crescendo.
BARTLET
I had a Civil Procedure professor once
who said this:

TOBY
(to himself)
Take a beat. There you go.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAM
Nice job.

TOBY
Yeah.

SAM
You didn’t like it?

TOBY
I thought it was fine.

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

TOBY
It was good.

SAM
It was outstanding.

TOBY
He blew the D-Section.

SAM
Toby, they’re still on their feet cheering.

TOBY
It was fine.

C.J.
(calling out)
Sam. Nice goin’.

SAM
Tell him.

C.J.
Why?

(CONTINUED)
TOBY
‘Cause Sam wrote two and a half paragraphs and I wrote 37 pages.

C.J.
Still--

TOBY
He blew the D-Section.

C.J.
I thought it was lovely.

TOBY
Why do you say these things to me?
They turn onto--

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

C.J.
Just to see your face turn that color.

JOSH
C.J.--

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

C.J.
Your little fan club was out in full force tonight.

JOSH
They like me in a tux.

C.J.
Do you think I have an unusually large neck?

JOSH
What the hell--

C.J.
I'm just asking 'cause--

JOSH
Stop talking.

C.J.
What's up?

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

C.J.
Telling me what?

JOSH
We lost five.

C.J.
What do you mean?

JOSH
802. Five votes jumped the fence.

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

JOSH
And a nice job looking calm.

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

JOSH
Leo just got off the phone with the Whip. The last nose count put us five down.
C.J.
What the hell happened?

JOSH
We don't know.

C.J.
Gimme names.

JOSH
We're finding out.

LEO
(calling)
Josh--

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

SAM
Hi.

MANDY
Hi.

SAM
"Happy Days Are Here Again"?

MANDY
He likes it.

SAM
Who?

MANDY
The President.

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

MANDY
I made the decision.

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

MANDY
It's optimistic.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
I'll say.

BARTLET
Where's Toby? Toby!
TOBY catches up to BARTLET...

BARTLET
What'd you think?

They turn a corner into--

INT. HOTEL KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

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

BARTLET
I'd imagine you would, Toby.

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

BARTLET
You noticed that, didya?

TOBY
Yes sir, I did.

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

TOBY
Yes, indeed.

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

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

BARTLET
Ah, God bless the Secret Service.

TOBY
Bless their hearts.

They slam through a fire door and into--
INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

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

COCKTAIL WAITRESS

Oh my God.

BARTLET

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

The BARTENDER is speechless as the GROUP whisks by.

TOBY

You like doing that, don't you.

BARTLET

Yeah. Charlie--

CHARLIE hustles to his side.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

What'd you think of the speech?

CHARLIE

Me?

BARTLET

Yeah.

CHARLIE

I thought--

TOBY

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

BARTLET

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

CHARLIE

I thought it was excellent.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: – Five Votes Down –

BARTLET/TOBY
(to each other)
See?

TOBY
Hey--

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

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

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

TOBY
That's what my mother calls it too.

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

EXT. CAPITOL HILTON - CONTINUOUS

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

CHARLIE
(easing him toward the car)
Mr. President...

BARTLET
Charlie, did my wife call?

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

(CONTINUED)
BARTLET
My back's fine. Those pills make me a little goofy.

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

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

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

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

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

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

THREE FEMALE GROUPIES
(shouting over the noise)
WE LOVE YOU, JOSH!

JOSH
(shouting)
Thanks!

C.J.
(shouting)
It helps not to know him!

SECRET SERVICE AGENT
Here we go. Movin' out!

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER
ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

MANDY (VO)
These are awfully good dumplings.

INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - NIGHT

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

C.J.
(calling over)
Leo, your food’s getting cold. You want me to bring it over?

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

MANDY
Seriously, I’ve never had dumplings quite this good.

JOSH
(calling over)
Isn’t my food getting cold, too?

C.J.
We ate your food.

MANDY
C.J., you gotta try this.

C.J.
Thanks. Try some of the this.
They start eating off each other’s plate.

TOBY
Here it comes.

C.J.
Mm, Sam you gotta try the General Cho’s Chicken.

MANDY
And the Kung Pao Chicken.

C.J.
With the sauce.

MANDY
You gotta try it with the sauce.

SAM
That’s delicious.

C.J.
You didn’t try it with the sauce.

TOBY
Could the two of you shut up.

MANDY
(to TOBY)
You wanna try Spicy Crispy Beef?

TOBY
I’m very happy with the food I’ve got.

LEO’s come over--

C.J.
(to LEO)
Botrell?

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

MANDY
I coulda called that.
LEO
Sam, could you slide me a soda, please.

JOSH has gotten off the phone and comes over.

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

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

JOSH
Who'd you get?

SAM
Katzenmoyer and Christopher Wick.

JOSH
Chris Wick?

LEO
Yeah.

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

LEO
Lee Tamaki and the Minority Whip.

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

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

TOBY
How do we do this without making noise?

MANDY
What do we care about noise?

LEO
There are two things in the world you never want to let people see how you make 'em: Laws and sausages.
MANDY
Got it. First of all, obviously, don’t involve the President.

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

C.J.
Financial Disclosure.

TOBY
It’s that time again?

C.J.
It’s that time again.

JOSH
What are you worth there, Toby?

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

MANDY
That’s good.

LEO
Financial Disclosure it is.

MANDY
(pointing at TOBY)
No, I mean that’s good.

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

TOBY
What’d I miss?

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

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

(CONTINUED)
MANDY
They're gonna love you for being broke, Toby.

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

LEO
How do we get the votes?

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

JOSH
Yeah.

LEO
Who?

SAM
You're not gonna like it.

LEO
Who?

SAM
The Vice President.

LEO
No way.

JOSH
Leo--

LEO
No way.

JOSH
The Vice President and Tillinghouse--
LEO
I'm not using Hoynes.

MANDY
Actually, Leo, I have to say--

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

SAM
It's two o'clock.

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

MANDY
I got it.

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

SAM
Thanks.

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

LEO
G'Night.

LEO's out the door...

MANDY
Josh, did you try the Crispy Spicy Beef?

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

MANDY
Toby--
TOBY

Give it to me.

CUT TO:

EXT. LEO’S HOUSE - NIGHT

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

INT. LEO’S HOUSE - NIGHT

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

LEO

I didn’t mean to wake you.

JENNY

I heard the car pull up.

LEO

You should go back to sleep.

JENNY

Where’ve you been?

LEO

What do you mean?

JENNY

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

LEO

I’m really sorry, Jenny.

JENNY

What happened?

LEO

We’re five votes short on 802.

JENNY

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

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

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

LEO
That’s not what I meant, Jen.

JENNY
Come to bed.

LEO
I’ll be right up.

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

LEO
(holding up the box)
What’s this?

JENNY
A wristwatch.

LEO
For me?

JENNY
Yeah.

LEO
From you?

JENNY
Yeah.

LEO
For what?

JENNY
Our anniversary.

There’s a long silence before...

LEO
(quietly)
Jenny...
JENNY
Come to bed.

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

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE:

TUESDAY

FADE IN:

EXT./EST THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

RADNER (VO)
It's unusual, though, don't you think?

CUT TO:

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - DAY

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

TOBY
I honestly couldn't say.

RADNER
I'm saying only owning one stock issue.

TOBY
Yes.

RADNER
It's pretty unusual.

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

RADNER
You're the Communications Director,
Toby, you can't tell me you have no
understanding of--
TOBY
I can tell you, Leela. Ask the Treasury Secretary, ask the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, I’m a total novice at--

RADNER
Toby--

TOBY
I never owned a share of stock until last year.

RADNER
What made you buy the stock?

TOBY
I use their web site, I like the company.

RADNER
Five thousand dollars worth?

TOBY
That’s right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)
TOBY
Tillinghouse?

CATHY
Yeah.

TOBY
Thanks.

CATHY exits.

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

TOBY
Leela--

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

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

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

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

LEELA looks at TOBY for a moment...

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

(CONTINUED)
TOBY
Leela, are you saying I should be talking to a lawyer?

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

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I
ACT II

FADE IN:

13

INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - DAY

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

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

MRS. LANDINGHAM
(putting her hand over the receiver)
Congratulations, Josh.

JOSH
Thanks, Mrs. Ladingham.

SAM
What's she congratulating you on?

JOSH
I don't know.

SAM
What's the range?

14

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

JOSH
Yeah.

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

They bust into--

15

INT. WEST WING LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

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

JOSH
Which question?

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

BONNIE passes by--

BONNIE
Congratulations, Josh.

JOSH
Thanks.

SAM
What the hell--

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

SAM
We can't--

JOSH and SAM stop walking.

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

They start walking again--

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

SAM
And Chris Wick?

They open the doors into--

INT. JOSH'S BULLPEN AREA

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

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
I sense I’m being mocked.

DONNA
Congratulations, Josh.

JOSH
What’d I do?

DONNA

JOSH
Really?

DONNA
Yeah.

JOSH
What won it for me?

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

JOSH
Ah, yes.

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

JOSH
Sarah was very fond of me.

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

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

(CONTINUED)
DONNA
Bye.

JOSH and SAM start walking past JOSH’s office—

JOSH
Anyway, I’ll deal with Chris Wick.

SAM
Where are you going?

They stop.

JOSH
Where are you going?

SAM
I’ve been following you.

JOSH
I’ve been following you.
(pause)
All right, don’t tell anybody this happened, okay?

SAM
Sure.

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

TOBY
Sam.

SAM
Hey.

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

SAM
Sure.

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

LEO
It can be Dom, it can be Kristal.
She likes them both.
MARGARET
Which do you like?

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

MARGARET
What's that?

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

MARGARET
They'll know what that means?

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

LEO
Yes.

MARGARET
How 'bout music?

LEO
I'll put on a record.

MARGARET
You don't want a violinist?

LEO
To play the violin?

MARGARET
Yeah.

LEO
Is that what people get now?

MARGARET
I know it's available.

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

MARGARET
Right.

(continues)
CONTINUED:

They walk into--

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

LEO
Harry Winston's sending down the choker?

MARGARET
It'll be here this afternoon.

LEO
It's the right size?

MARGARET
We can only hope.

LEO
My wife has a great neck.

MARGARET
This'll certainly call attention to it.

LEO
Would you stop?

MARGARET
You spend too much money.

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

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

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

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

JOSH comes in--

JOSH
Leo--

LEO
Josh, do women like violinists?

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
Why? You thinkin' about taking lessons?

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

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

LEO
That's what I thought.

JOSH
Is it Jenny's birthday?

LEO
I forgot our anniversary.

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

LEO
(to MARGARET)
Call the guy.

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

JOSH
(to MARGARET)
Leave.

LEO
Call the guy.

JOSH
I'm gonna go see Katzenmoyer.

LEO
When?

JOSH
Right now.

LEO
What're you gonna give him?

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

LEO
You wanna dangle his job in front of him?

JOSH
Yeah.

LEO
No.

JOSH
I wanna let him hear the branch creak.

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

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

LEO
(pause)
I should sell tickets to this meeting.

CUT TO:

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - DAY

SAM and TOBY are talking--

SAM
A hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars?

TOBY
Could you stop saying that?

SAM
Sure.

TOBY
How much trouble am I in?

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

TOBY
Talk about actual trouble.

SAM
You're in no actual trouble.

TOBY
Really?

SAM
Absolutely not.

TOBY
Good.

SAM
But I'd hire a lawyer anyway.

TOBY
Why?

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

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

SAM
Perception.

TOBY
Yes.

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

TOBY
To say nothing of damaging to the
President.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
Indeed.

TOBY
Why are you talking like this?

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

TOBY
I totally backed you up on that.

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

TOBY
Absolutely none.

SAM
First of all, who else would know about this?

TOBY
Anyone who’s seen the report.

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

C.J. pops in--

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

SAM
I got your back, there, buddy.

TOBY
I’m so completely screwed.

CUT TO:
EXT./EST. THE CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

KATZENMOYER (VO)
You gotta understand the people in my district, Josh.

CUT TO:

INT. KATZENMOYER'S OFFICE - DAY

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

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

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

JOSH
And you’re not doin’ so well.

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

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

KATZENMOYER
What is the point.

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

KATZENMOYER
How do you figure?

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
You’re gonna lose in the primary.

KATZENMOYER
There’s no Democrat who’s challenging me.

JOSH
Sure there is.

KATZENMOYER
Who?

JOSH
Whomever we pick.

KATZENMOYER
(pause)
You’re bluffing.

JOSH
(getting up)
Okay.

KATZENMOYER
I’m in your own party.

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

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

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

KATZENMOYER
Oh, God.

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

(MORE)
JOSH (cont'd)
And after the watermelon's done, right in town square, right in the band gazebo—you guys got a band gazebo?

KATZENMOYER

Josh--

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

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

(beat)
That's what he pays me for.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT II
ACT III

FADE IN:

21A EXT. GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

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

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

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

Sam
Should I sit quietly?

Laurie
Yeah, 'cause I've gotta study this.

Sam
No problem.

Laurie
Thanks.

Sam
I'll eat my sandwich.

Laurie
Good, Sam.

Sam
(beat)
What has me nervous is this:

Laurie
Sam--

Sam
It's gonna come back to bite us.

Laurie
Eat your sandwich.

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

(CONTINUED)
LAURIE
Well, maybe this'll help you: The chicken salad is mine.

SAM
The chicken salad's lookin' awfully good.

LAURIE
And the chicken salad is also mine.

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

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

SAM
Because of the way you're dressed?

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

SAM
No.

LAURIE goes back to working.

SAM
Your night job is crummy.

LAURIE
Yes, I know.

SAM
We won't talk about it now.

LAURIE
Thank you.

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

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

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

(MORE)
SAM (cont'd)
Cite the precedent, cite Brandeis's opinion for the majority.

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

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

LAURIE
It bears some relation to graduating, though, right?

SAM
Yes.

LAURIE
Then shut up.

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

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

SAM
Really?

LAURIE
Keep it short.

SAM
It'll come back to bite us.

LAURIE
You get the five votes in exchange for what?

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

LAURIE
What kind of punishment?
SAM
They'll think of something.
(pause)
Go back to work.

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

SAM
Laurie?

LAURIE
(frustrated)
Sam--

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

LAURIE
Enjoy it, Sam.

SAM
Thanks.

CUT TO:

22 INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

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

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

The PRESS LAUGHS--

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

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

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

REPORTER
Could you go into detail?

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

Everyone LAUGHS.

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

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

JOSH
Thanks for the promo.

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

JOSH and C.J. walk into--

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

JOSH
I got Katzenmoyer.

C.J.
He’s back?

JOSH
Along with O’Bannon and LeBrandt.

C.J.
You got three?

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

C.J.
You’re worried about Tillinghouse?

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

DONNA intercepts them--

DONNA
Josh.

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

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

DONNA
Congressman Wick is waiting in the Mural Room.

JOSH
I know.

(CONTINUED)
DONNA
He's been waiting twenty minutes.

JOSH
I know.

DONNA
You have a Legislative Liaison meeting in fifteen minutes.

JOSH
I know.

DONNA
And then the East Asia briefing.

JOSH
I know.

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

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

And with that, JOSH walks into--

INT. MURAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

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

WICK
Dude.

JOSH
(shaking hands)
Congressman.

WICK
(introducing the AIDES)
This is--

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

(CONTINUED)
WICK
(to the AIDS)
Go ahead.

JOSH
And close the door, please.

The AIDS walk out and shut the door--

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

WICK
Josh--

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

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

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

WICK
What the hell--

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

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

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

WICK
If you'd let me--

JOSH
You don't have a clue.

(CONTINUED)
WICK
That's not--

JOSH
The MAC-90?

WICK
Listen--

JOSH
PCR? MFR? Anything ring a bell?

WICK
My aides--

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

WICK
Calm down.

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

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

JOSH
It's a grenade launcher.

WICK
Yes, I was--

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

WICK
Josh--

JOSH
I put you in your seat. I got you elected to the House of Representatives.
WICK
Yeah, and now you guys think I’m on the leash. I get taken for granted, Josh. I’ve one photo-op with the President. One. Me and 16 other freshman. That makes me weak.

JOSH
You’re not serious.

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

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

WICK
It got your attention.

JOSH
(pause)
You know I’m so sick of Congress I could vomit.
(pause)
What do you want?

WICK
A round of golf.

JOSH
The President doesn’t play golf.

WICK
What does he play?

JOSH
Chess.

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

JOSH
He’s gonna kick your ass, you know.

(CONTINUED)
WICK
Whatever. And I don’t appreciate being--

JOSH moves to the door--

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

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

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

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

JOSH continues on as we:

INT. LEO’S OFFICE - DAY

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

MANDY
Wow.

LEO
Wow is right.

C.J.
It’s beautiful.

SAM
(suggestively)
Excellent choice, my friend.

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

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

(CONTINUED)
C.J.
Can I try it on?

LEO
No.

MANDY
Can I rub it against my teeth?

LEO
No.

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

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

JOSH walks in--

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

C.J.
We’re all agreed on that.

LEO
No.

JOSH
This needs a Texan.

LEO
I had a different idea.

JOSH
What?

LEO
I go to Richardson.

MANDY
We’ve been through it with Richardson.

JOSH
The whole Congressional Black Caucus. Let’s not get ‘em any more pissed off at us than they are already.
LEO
I'll talk to Richardson alone.

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

LEO
(calling)
Margaret--

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

JOSH exits--

MARGARET
Yes sir.

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

MARGARET exits. SAM holds up the necklace to TOBY.

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

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

CUT TO:

EXT. THE REFLECTING POOL - LATE AFTERNOON

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

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

LEO
We need this one, Mark.

RICHARDSON
I'm voting "no," Leo.
LEO
Mark, it was all we could get right
now and you know it.

RICHARDSON
You didn’t work hard enough.

LEO
We did.

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

LEO
We had to lose ‘em.

RICHARDSON
You never fought for ‘em.

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

RICHARDSON
No, I know how you guys work.

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

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

LEO
If the White House isn’t strong, it
doesn’t really matter what number-two
on my list is. Jesus Christ, Mark,
the bodies being wheeled into the
emergency rooms are black. These guns
aren’t going to Scottsdale, Mark,
they’re going to Detroit. They’re going
to Philadelphia. An entire generation
of African-American men are being eaten
alive by drugs and poverty, your men
are in jail, Mark.
RICHARDSON
Well, I’m encouraged to hear the White House has discovered there’s a drug problem in this country. Your penetrating insight is matched only by the courage displayed in the authorship of this bill.

LEO
Mark, for God’s sake--

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

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

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH’S OFFICE - SAME TIME

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

MANDY
Somebody gave you a year’s supply of fruit?

JOSH
Yes.

MANDY
Why?

JOSH
There are people who like me.

(CONTINUED)
MANDY
(beat)
Why?

DONNA pops her head in--

DONNA
It's Leo.

JOSH grabs the phone--

JOSH
(beat)
What happened?

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

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

JOSH
(beat)
Leo, we're gonna set up a meeting with the Vice President.

CONTINUED:

INT. LEO'S CAR - NIGHT

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

EXT. LEO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

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

INT. LEO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

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

LEO (tentatively)
Jenny?

JENNY comes out from around where the kitchen is. LEO hasn't moved.
JENNY
I’m still here.

LEO
(beat)
What’s going on?

JENNY
Leo--

LEO
Jenny, what’s going on?

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

LEO
It wasn’t any trouble.

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

LEO
I’m sorry about the anniversary, I bought you a--

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

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

JENNY
It’s not more important than your marriage.

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

JENNY
The fact that you can find the time to take your staff out for a late-night steak and you can’t find the time--
LEO
I'm five votes down and I need to win, Jenny, I met with the staff--

JENNY
You made the time.

LEO
I made the time tonight.

JENNY
You didn't make the time tonight.

LEO
I hired a whole--

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

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

JENNY
Leo--

LEO
I was gonna be right back.

JENNY
I can't.
(beat)
Really.

LEO doesn't know what to say...

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

JENNY
I have to go now.

LEO
Okay.

JENNY
I'll be at the Watergate.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
Okay.

JENNY
I'll talk to you later.

LEO
You'll call me?

JENNY
Yeah.

JENNY picks up her coat and bags--

LEO
You want me to carry that to the cab?

JENNY
That's okay.

LEO
Call me before you go to sleep.

JENNY
Okay.

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

FADE OUT

END OF ACT III
ACT IV

FADE IN:

32 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

CUT TO:

33 INT. HOYNES'S OFFICE - NIGHT

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

JANEANE
Sir...

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

JANEANE
(smiling)
I didn't know that.

HOYNES
How do you suppose they get their mail delivered?

JANEANE
(very good at flirting)
I don't know.

HOYNES
Send him in.

LEO's shown into the office--

LEO
Good evening, Mr. Vice President.

HOYNES
C'mon in. Thanks Janeane.

LEO
(absently)
Thanks.

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

(CONTINUED)
HOYNES
What'd you need to see me about?

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

*HOYNES
I know.

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

HOYNES
Leo are you feeling okay? Siddown.

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

HOYNES
(calling)
Janeane!

LEO
If I could just get a glass of water.

JANEANE comes in--

HOYNES
(to JANEANE)
A glass of ice water.

JANEANE
Should I call a doctor?

HOYNES
No, just the water.

JANEANE leaves.

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

LEO
Yeah.

(continues)
HOYNES
(pause)
I mean you want to talk about it at all?

LEO
No.

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

LEO
Thanks.

JANEANE exits. LEO takes a sip of water.

LEO
Anyway--

HOYNES
I’ll see Tillinghouse.

LEO
Yeah?

HOYNES
I’ll see him in the morning.

LEO
You’ll deliver him?

HOYNES
It’s a done deal.

LEO
I don’t need to tell you we need this win.

HOYNES
I think we’re home.

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

HOYNES
Leo, you mind if I ask you a question?

LEO
What?

HOYNES
When was the last time you went to a meeting?
LEO
(pause)
What meeting could I possibly go to?

HOYNES
Mine.

LEO
(pause)
John, tell me you're not showing your face at--

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

LEO
(pause)
Do I have enemies in that room?

HOYNES
They're all our people.

LEO
(pause)
I had no idea.

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

LEO
No, I got my guy.

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

LEO
Call me after Tillinghouse.

HOYNES
It's in the bag.

LEO
G'night.

LEO exits and HOYNES calls out the open door--

(CONTINUED)
HOYNES
(calling)
Janeane.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE:

WEDNESDAY

FADE IN:

EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE — DAY

INT. JOSH’S BULLPEN AREA — SAME TIME

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

MANDY
Hi, there.

JOSH
How ya doin’?

They begin walking—

MANDY
Sarah Wissinger?

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

MANDY
You received these gifts on July 3rd.

JOSH
(pause)
I’m sensing trouble but I can’t quite figure out—

MANDY
You and I didn’t break up until July ninth.
CONTINUED:

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

They go through the doors and into--

INT. CORRIDOR – CONTINUOUS

MANDY
She was giving you presents on July 3rd?

JOHSH
You knew I knew Sarah.

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

JOHSH
They weren’t by way of saying “Thanks for sleeping with me” if that’s what you mean.

MANDY
Don’t talk to me.

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE – DAY

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

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

TOBY
Fessed-up to what?

C.J.
Your whole nefarious life of crime.

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

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

JOHSH and MANDY enter--

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
Hey.

TOBY
What's goin' on?

JOSH
Hoynes is having breakfast with Tillinghouse.

MANDY
Sarah Wissinslut gave him the jacket on July 3rd.

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

MANDY
That was a bit unrealistic.

JOSH
Where's the President?

LEO enters from his office--

TOBY
I haven't seen him.

C.J.
Leo, how'd it go?

LEO
What do you mean?

JOSH
Last night.

LEO
Great.

C.J.
She liked the choker.

LEO
Yeah.

JOSH
How 'bout the violinist?

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

SAM
Great.

TOBY
Where's the President?

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

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

BARTLET
Hey.

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

BARTLET
No, I feel fine.

LEO
Maybe you should get back to the residence.

BARTLET
(pause)
Hm?

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

BARTLET
Absolutely no need. What's goin' on?

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

(CONTINUED)
BARTLET
Well, I like to roll up my sleeves and, you know...

There's an excruciatingly long wait before...

BARTLET
...get involved.

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

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

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

BARTLET thinks about it for a moment...

BARTLET
I wasn't supposed to take 'em both?

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

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

BARTLET sits down and pats SAM on the thigh--

BARTLET
Tell me what the problem is, Toby.

SAM
I'm Sam, sir.

BARTLET
Of course.

TOBY
The situation basically is this: I arranged for a friend to testify to
(MORE)

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

BARTLET
Toby.
(beat)
Toby, Toby, Toby.
(pause)
Toby's a pretty nice name, don't you
think?

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

BARTLET
No. Please. I know my body, you know,
my muscles, I know they're not, you
know, but my mind is sharp. I'm
focused, I can focus, you know this
about me. So I think the thing to do
is this:
(pause)
Was I just saying something?

LEO
(calling)
Mrs. Landingham!

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

MRS. LANDINGHAM comes in--

MRS. LANDINGHAM
Yes.

JOSH
Get Charlie.

MRS. LANDINGHAM exits.

MANDY
Let's start at the bottom.

SAM
What do you mean?

MANDY
There's always resignation.
BARTLET

Hot damn, now we're talkin'.

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

TOBY

(pause)
I think she meant me, Mr. President.

BARTLET

Ah.

LEO

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

SAM

I've got it.

TOBY

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

SAM

I've got it.

MANDY

What?

SAM

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

TOBY

Yes.

SAM

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

BARTLET

Done.

TOBY

Wait--
LEO
Good, Sam.

SAM
Thanks.

TOBY
It's not good, it stinks.

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

TOBY
Thank you, sir, but--

BARTLET
C'mon. Gimme a hug.

CHARLIE comes in--

CHARLIE
Excuse me. Mr. President--

BARTLET
Charlie--

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

BARTLET
Charlie's a great name.

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

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

LEO
Feel better, Mr. President.

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

SAM
(to TOBY)
How do you feel there, big guy?

(CONTINUED)
TOBY

Like I just got screwed with my pants on.

SAM

Excellent.

EXT. HOYNES’S OFFICE TERRACE – DAY

HOYNES and TILLINGHOUSE are eating breakfast.

TILLINGHOUSE

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

HOYNES

I know.

TILLINGHOUSE

I’m voting my conscience.

HOYNES

I know.

TILLINGHOUSE

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

HOYNES

You can’t.

TILLINGHOUSE

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

HOYNES

It makes perfect sense.

TILLINGHOUSE

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

HOYNES

Yes.

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

HOYNES
They're pretty pissed are they?

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

HOYNES
I don't blame 'em.

TILLINGHOUSE
Reality is reality.

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

TILLINGHOUSE
John--

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

TILLINGHOUSE looks at HOYNES for a long moment...

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

HOYNES
You've got a roll call.

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

HOYNES
Right now?

TILLINGHOUSE
Yes.
HOYNES
Nothing.

TILLINGHOUSE
Then why am I handing you a personal political victory?

HOYNES
Why?

TILLINGHOUSE
Yes.

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

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. – NIGHT

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

NEWSCASTER #1 (VO)
...the Mini-9 and the Rutger 14. The bill passed the House by a slim one-vote margin and though White House officials had hoped this would serve as a much-needed victory for the President, it’s Vice President John Hoynes who many Democrats on the Hill are--

NEWSCASTER #2 (VO)
--Congressmen Katzenmoyer and O’Bannon, as well as others say that credit is due Vice President Hoynes for the--

NEWSCASTER #3 (VO)
--Mark Richardson, leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, had little to say about the--

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

LEO, JOSH, SAM, C.J., TOBY, MANDY and DONNA are watching a bank of television monitors, with TOBY switching the sound from one to the next.
NEWSCASTER #3 (VO)
--victory, choosing instead, according to one aide close to Mr. Richardson, to let the Vice President have his moment.

MANDY
Unbelievable.

SAM
I don’t believe it.

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

SAM
And keeps the ketchup.

C.J.
Sorry, Leo, you saw this one comin’ through the midtown tunnel.

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

Part of LEO seems to be someplace else...

LEO
We got what we deserved.
    (beat)
It was hubris. And we got what we deserved.
    (beat)
G’night everyone.
    (beat)
Listen. We won.

LEO exits...

TOBY
Where’s the President?

C.J.
He’s asleep.

TOBY
Wake him.

C.J.
Toby--
TOBY
Wake him now.

C.J.
Let's leave it 'till the morning,
Toby.
(beat)
Let's leave it 'till the morning.

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

CUT TO:

INT. HOYNES'S OFFICE - NIGHT

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

JANEANE
Sir?

HOYNES
Yeah.

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

HOYNES
Sure.

JOSH is shown in--

JOSH
Good evening, Mr. Vice President.

HOYNES
Nice victory.
JOSH
Are you talking about the bill or the smoking jacket?

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

JOSH
It's a crappy law.

HOYNES
Nah.

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

HOYNES
You did well.

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

HOYNES
These things happen slowly.

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

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

JANEANE
Mr. Vice President--

HOYNES
I'm on my way Janeane.

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

JOSH

HOYNES

Yes sir.

(CONTINUED)
HOYNES
Welcome to the NFL.

JOSH
Yes sir.

HOYNES is out the door.

INT. BASEMENT CORRIDOR AT OEOB - NIGHT

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

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

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

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

LEO
Thank you.

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

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END