THE WEST WING

"Celestial Navigation"

Teleplay by
Aaron Sorkin

Story by
Dee Dee Myers
&
Lawrence O' Donnell, Jr.

Directed by
Christopher Misiano
THE WEST WING

"Celestial Navigation"

CAST LIST

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

GINGER
CAROL
BONNIE
DANNY
MARGARET
DONNA
ROBERTO MENDOZA
NESSLER
MAN
REPORTER #1
REPORTER #2
REPORTER #3
DEBORAH O'LEARY
REPORTER #4 (MIKE)
REPORTER #5 (KATIE)
FEMALE STUDENT
SAM
PETER
MACNAMARA
STEWARD
"Celestial Navigation"

FADE IN:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

A packed house in tiered, theater-style seating. NESSLER, a professor, occupies one of two chairs facing the audience. A small table, a couple of glasses and pitcher of water separates him from the empty chair to his right. A small microphone is clipped to his tie.

NESSLER
I can see by the size of the turnout that you're excited to meet tonight's guest, so let me dispense with some housekeeping as quickly as I can. Starting next week, my office hours are gonna be changing to Tuesdays, noon to one and Fridays--

JOSH is standing "backstage," talking into his cell phone.

JOSH
(into phone)
What are you talking about?

EXT. D.C. STREET - SAME TIME

SAM's in the street with the cell phone to his ear trying to hail a cab.

SAM
(into phone)
He was arrested.

JOSH
(into phone)
For what?

(CONTINUED)
SAM
(into phone)
Drunk driving, resisting arrest and I
think disorderly conduct.

JOSH
(into phone)
You think?

SAM
(into phone)
This thing's about 30 minutes old, Josh,
we don't know what exactly happened.

JOSH
What do we know.

SAM
Mendoza doesn't drink.

JOSH
He was arrested for drunk driving.

SAM
Roberto Mendoza doesn't drink, Josh.

JOSH
How much does the press know?

SAM
They don't know anything.

JOSH
The cops haven't leaked it?

SAM
I swear to God, I don't think the
cops know.

JOSH
They don't know they arrested Roberto
Mendoza?

SAM
They don't know it's that Roberto
Mendoza.

A cop pulls over--

JOSH
(pause--looks around
helplessly)
I've got this thing now.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
I got a cab. I'll let you know what's goin' on.

SAM hangs up.

SAM
(to the DRIVER)
The White House, please.

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - CONTINUOUS

JOSH
(into phone)
Stay ahead of the pitch, Sam, and have Toby page me. We don't even know if this guy's called a lawyer. Is he sitting in a jail cell? You're not there anymore, are you. I'm talking to no one at all right now.

JOSH snaps the phone shut and looks out at Nessler.

NESSLER
For undergraduates enrolled in 304, the TAs will be handing out--

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

C.J. is there as SAM comes in--

C.J.
What happened?

SAM
This isn't as bad as you think, C.J.

C.J.
Was the President's nominee for the Supreme Court just arrested for drunk driving?

SAM
Yes.

C.J.
Then it's pretty bad, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)
SAM
Sure.

C.J.
I thought he doesn’t drink.

SAM
He doesn’t drink.

C.J.
He was tonight.

SAM
C.J., we’ve vetted the man. I’m not saying he’s not a heavy drinker, I’m saying he doesn’t drink.

C.J.
Then what was he pulled over for?

SAM
Driving while being Hispanic.

C.J.
Does Toby know?

TOBY enters from another door--

TOBY
I’ve stepped off the edge of the world.

SAM
(to C.J.)
Yes.

TOBY
Where’d this happen?

SAM
Wesley, Connecticut.

C.J.
Why’d he refuse the Breathalyzer?

TOBY
’Cause he’s a crazy man who’s out to ruin my life.

SAM
Toby--

(Continued)
TOBY
That’s what he’s out to do. Has anyone posted bail?

SAM
No.

TOBY
Why not?

SAM
They can’t find a judge.

TOBY
Why not?

C.J.
He’s not in Cook County, it’s Friday night in Wesley, Connecticut.

TOBY
Believe me when I tell you, C.J., I will figure out a way to blame this on you.

C.J.
I have no doubt about that.

LEO enters--

LEO
Have someone find his lawyer and talk to him. Sam, there’s an Air Force Lear jet with its motor running. Fly to Westchester County Airport, rent a car, drive to Wesley and get the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court outa jail. C.J., Sam sees one reporter when he gets off that plane, I’m gonna blame you.

C.J.
Toby’s got you covered there.

TOBY
I’m going with Sam.

LEO
Toby--

TOBY
The judge and I are gonna have an abrupt conversation.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
I want my phone to ring once every 15
minutes. I wanna know what's goin' on.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH is being introduced.

NESSLER
...where he worked as floor manager
for the House Minority Whip and Chief of
Staff for Congressman Earl Brennan. After
serving as senior political director for
Jed Bartlet's presidential campaign, he
was appointed Deputy White House Chief of
Staff. Please welcome Joshua Lyman.

The room breaks into APPLAUSE as JOSH takes his seat.

NESSLER
Josh, you're here to tell us what it's
like to work for the President.

JOSH
I'll do my best.

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER
FADE IN:

ACT ONE

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

Apparently JOSH has just said something hilarious. The STUDENTS' LAUGHTER turns into APPLAUSE.

NESSLER

Josh, why don't you start by telling us about a typical day at the White House.

JOSH

The first thing I'll tell you is there's no such thing. There's a schedule and there's a structure to be sure, and to a certain extent it starts out as a nine to five job, but you can pretty much count on it getting blown to hell by 9:30.

Everyone LAUGHS.

NESSLER

Give us an example.

JOSH

I'll give you an example from this week. Anyone reading the papers the last few days has probably been following along with what we call The News Cycle That Wouldn't End. Depending on how you look at it, it started either with a Cabinet Secretary losing her temper, a committee chairman baiting her during a hearing, the President answering a question he shouldn't have, a dentist appointment, or me being stupid. For the record, I'd like to say that I don't think it was as much my fault as other people do. One thing's for sure: It started out as a bill signing ceremony in the mural room that was supposed to trumpet the President's vision for education reform.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

C.J. is at the podium while SAM and TOBY prep her. CAROL is sitting to the side.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
Gimme the bullet points.

C.J.
I understand this, Sam.

SAM
Excellent.

C.J.
I really do.

SAM
I have complete confidence in you.

C.J.
Thank you.

TOBY
Give him the bullet points.

C.J.
And I feel bathed in your confidence as well, Toby.

TOBY
C.J.--

C.J.
Forgive student loans to people who become teachers--

TOBY
And?

C.J.
--and spend at least three years teaching in a rural or inner city school. Give cash bonuses to people who leave other careers and become teachers. Provide Federal money for grants to individual school districts to use older, more experienced teachers to train younger, less experienced teachers and--

TOBY
You should note that half of all new teachers quit in the first three years.

C.J.
(brandishing)
It is right here on my index card, Toby.

(Continued)
TOBY
(beat)
Very good then.

JOSH sticks his head in the back--

JOSH
Toby?

TOBY
Yeah.

JOSH
You got a second?

TOBY
Yeah.

C.J.
Thank you both.

C.J. exits as TOBY goes to talk to JOSH. SAM follows C.J. out into--

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

SAM
You know what?

C.J.
What?

SAM
What time's your briefing?

C.J.
Eleven o'clock.

SAM
You should push it to one o'clock.

C.J.
I thought about that.

SAM
Do it after the bill signing. Let this be the story. Let's control the news cycle.

They step into--
INT. C.J.'S OUTER OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

C.J.
Carol, let's move the briefing to one.

CAROL
You can't.

C.J.
Why not?

CAROL
You have the thing.

C.J.
Yes, and this is a perfect excuse to postpone the thing.

CAROL
You really don't want to do that.

SAM
You have a thing?

C.J.
I have a dentist appointment at noon.

SAM
What's wrong?

C.J.
Nothing's wrong.

SAM
C.J.---

C.J.
I'm experiencing some pain.

SAM
For how long.

C.J.
About a month now, but it'll go away by itself.

SAM
When?

C.J.
When I die, Sam. Carol, cancel the appointment.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
Carol, set the briefing for two o'clock and keep the appointment.

C.J.

SAM
Your teeth are the best friends you got, C.J.

C.J.
They are?

SAM
Take care of them and they'll take care of you.

C.J.
When did you start talking like this?

SAM
I'm nuts about dental hygiene.

C.J.
Got out now.

SAM
Okay.

SAM exits as we:

CUT TO:

INT. WEST WING CORRIDOR - DAY

As TOBY and JOSH head toward the communications bullpen.

TOBY
She called him a racist?

JOSH
She didn't use that word.

TOBY
What word did she use?

JOSH
Well, yes she used that word.

As they walk into--
INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

TOBY (calling out)
Bonnie. Ginger.

GINGER
Yes.

TOBY
Get me anything that might be on the wire already about the HUD Secretary calling Jack Wooden a racist.

BONNIE
You want it now?

TOBY
No, Bonnie, I want it at whatever leisurely pace you two feel--

BONNIE
I'm just asking.

TOBY
I want it now.

BONNIE and GINGER go off.

TOBY
On C-SPAN she called Wooden a racist?

JOSH
No, no. Not just Wooden. She was pretty careful to include all Republicans.

TOBY
Why are you good-humored about this?

JOSH
She was baited.

TOBY
I don't care.

JOSH
She was baited and she was right.

TOBY
Good for her.

DONNA comes in with some printouts.
DONNA

Excuse me. Josh, did you know that Deborah O’Leary called--

TOBY

Is that a wire story?

JOSH

What’s it say?

DONNA

(reading)

"Wooden’s lengthy recitation of the problems confronting public housing drew an angry response from Secretary O’Leary." And here’s what she said: ‘Public housing has serious problems. Mr. Chairman, I don’t deny that. But if you and your colleagues in the Republican Party--’"

TOBY

No.

DONNA

"‘--were as invested in solving the problems associated with poverty as you are in scoring political points on the backs of poor people and minorities, you might just see the value.’ ‘Are you calling me a racist,’ Wooden shot back."

TOBY

"Of course not,” she answered wisely.

DONNA

"‘If the shoe fits,’ responded the Secretary."

TOBY

Well, wasn’t that clever of her.

SAM comes in with the wire report--

"SAM

You guys know about Debbie O’Leary?

JOSH

Yes.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
You see the wire report?

JOSH
Yes.
SAM
(reading)
"When reporters confronted Secretary O'Leary in the hallway outside the hearing room--"

TOBY
"She retracted her earlier comments--"

SAM
(reading)
"--she defended her earlier comments, saying 'The only thing that's been an abject failure is the Republican Party's willingness to offer serious solutions to the very serious problem of poverty and homelessness in this country.'"

JOSH
(to TOBY)
See? At least that time she stopped short of calling 'em racists.

SAM
(reading)
"And yes, I think that failure has been driven in large measure by racism."

TOBY
(calling out)
Bonnie! Ginger! Somebody page the spokes--where the hell are they?

BONNIE and GINGER come in with the wire service report--

GINGER
We got the wire report.

TOBY
Did you actually go the Associated Press building, 'cause you know we have a machine--

BONNIE
We're having computer problems.

TOBY
Page the spokesperson for HUD--

JOSH
Moralis.

(continued)
TOBY
--I need him now.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH
Donald Morris, who's the spokesperson for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and who's wishing he hadn't gotten out of bed that morning, confirms what's happened. Now there's the matter of telling the President.

CUT TO:

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

BARTLET
If the shoe fits?

TOBY
It gets a little bit worse actually.

BARTLET
(reading)
"When reporters confronted Secretary O'Leary in the hallway outside the hearing room..."

(he reads on for a moment)
Oh, come on.

LEO
Don't worry about it.

BARTLET
Leo--

LEO
I'll take care of it.

(to JOSH)
She's on her way here?

JOSH
She'll be here in a half hour.

CHARLIE steps in--

CHARLIE
Mr. President?
BARTLET
Yeah, let's go.

They all start to head toward the mural room--

BARTLET
(to LEO)
If the shoe fits? That's the best she could do?

They walk into--

INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

LEO
Of her many transgressions, Mr. President, let's not worry about she resorted to cliche.

We HEAR a MAN announce from the Mural Room--

MAN
Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States.

BARTLET and his party walk into--

INT. MURAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

All the furniture has been cleared out and several rows of folding chairs are set up. The PRESS is behind a rope line. A small table is at the front where the President will eventually sit and sign the bill.

Everyone stands and APPLAUDS as BARTLET walks in to a spray of flashbulbs.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH
The President spoke briefly.
(thinks a second)
The President's never spoken briefly in his life, but he spoke. He signed the bill, he gave away the pens, and then he took a few questions from the press.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
JOSH (cont'd)
Now before I go on, it should be noted that according to every poll conducted in the universe, the issue that concerns Americans more than any other is education. The President had just signed off on 700 million dollars in new money for education and had announced his plans for a series of aggressive education initiatives. What do you suppose the first question from the press was?

The STUDENTS call out "Deborah O'Leary," "The HUD Secretary," etc.

JOSH
You all get an "A."

INT. MURAL ROOM - DAY

DANNY
Mr. President, do you agree with Secretary O'Leary that Congressman Wooden is a racist, and if not, do you plan on asking for her resignation?

BARTLET
Let me say that I have great confidence in Deborah O'Leary. She's done a terrific job at HUD, helping thousands of people make the difficult transition from joblessness and homelessness into more fulfilling and productive lives.

DANNY
I'm sorry, Mr. President, but you didn't answer the question.

BARTLET
I was hoping you weren't gonna notice that, Danny.

DANNY
I did, sir.

BARTLET
Then I'll tell you that I agree that the Republican Party doesn't have a comprehensive program to combat poverty in this country.

(MORE)
BARTLET (cont'd)

That being said, there are countless Republicans working hard to change their party's legacy on some of these issues, and I hope to work with them to do just that.

DANNY

Well I'm sure that was an answer to some question, Mr. President, it just wasn't an answer to mine.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH

If we'd just stopped it right there. "Sorry, the President can't take questions right now." "We'll cover this in the briefing." "The building's on fire." But for some reason, it took us all a moment to realize that there was no Press Secretary in the room.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. MURAL ROOM - DAY

BARTLET

Frankly, I think she went too far in assigning motive to Congressman Wooden and the Republican Party.

REPORTER #1

Will you be speaking to her?

BARTLET

She'll be meeting with Leo McGarry.

REPORTER #2

Will he ask her to apologize?

BARTLET

An apology'd be appropriate.

LEO

(to himself)

Ah, holy hell--

(to JOSH)

--get him off.

JOSH

(quickly)

Sam.

(continued)
And if she doesn't apologize, will you--

SAM
Folks, we're gonna cover all this at the two o'clock briefing. The President's late for a lunch with the U.N. Ambassador. I'm sorry.

BARTLET
Thank you, everyone.

The PRESS is shouting "Mr. President," "Will you fire her," "Sir," "If she doesn't apologize," etc.

BARTLET and the rest head out the door into--

INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

As they walk--

BARTLET
That went pretty well.

LRO
We'll fix it.

TOBY
Sam.

SAM
Yeah.

TOBY
The U.N. Ambassador's in Portugal.

SAM

TOBY
Yeah.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH
Eight words: "The President's not taking any questions right now"--if we'd just stepped in 30 seconds sooner--

JOSH's cell phone RINGS.
JOSH
That's me. I'm sorry. I--there's a
thing. I have to answer this now.
This'll take just a second. This
is weird, I know, but... anyway.

JOSH speaks quietly into the cell phone--

JOSH
Yeah.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

SAM is driving and TOBY's riding shotgun with a map open on
his lap talking into a cell phone. They're driving on the
New England Thruway.

TOBY
Yeah, it's me.

JOSH
Are you there yet?

TOBY
We're lost.

JOSH
You're lost?

SAM
We're not lost.

TOBY
You're from Connecticut, what exit
do we want for Wesley?

JOSH
(beat)
What?

TOBY
We missed the exit.

SAM
We didn't miss the exit.

JOSH
Toby, I'm kind of in the middle of
something here.

(CONTINUED)
TOBY

Just tell me--

JOSH

You bet, buddy. Call me when you know something.

JOSH hangs up.

JOSH

to NESSLER and
the STUDENTS

Sorry about that.

NESSLER
Can you tell us what that was about?

JOSH
The trade deficit. Where was I?

NESSLER
If you'd only gotten there 30 seconds sooner.

JOSH
The day would've gone a lot differently.

JOSH starts pouring himself a glass of water as he speaks.

JOSH
The President had said Secretary O'Leary should apologize. The press wanted to
know if she'd be fired if she didn't and we didn't have an answer. She was
coming up to the White House for a showdown. This is what the day was about
now. And the day was about to get worse. 'Cause I was about to step to the plate.

He takes a sip of water as we:

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT./EST. NEW ENGLAND THRUWAY - NIGHT

SAM and TOBY'S rental speeds through the night.

INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

TOBY's got the map open on his lap.

TOBY
We're going the wrong way.

SAM
No, we're not.

TOBY
We're supposed to be going East.

SAM
We're going East.

TOBY
How do you know we're going East?

SAM
The sun rises in the East.

TOBY
It's dark outside.

SAM
Also that bright star in the Northern sky is Polaris.

TOBY
So what?

SAM
I'm using celestial navigation.

TOBY
Hey. Galileo. Get off at the next exit and turn the car around.

The car speeds on as we:

CUT TO:

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - DAY

MARGARET steps in...
MARGARET
Leo?
LEO
Yeah.
MARGARET
Secretary O'Leary is here.
LEO
Thank you.

MARGARET steps out and a moment later DEBORAH O'LEARY enters. She's a strikingly handsome black woman in her late 40s.

O'LEARY
Leo--

LEO
Madam Secretary.

O'LEARY
I can't believe he did that, Leo.

LEO
Debbie--

O'LEARY
How could--

LEO
You're pissed at us?

O'LEARY
How could he publicly demand that I apologize without hearing my side of the story first.

LEO
We blew the press event, we'll cop to that, but Debbie, I got a video tape of your side of the story.

O'LEARY
The man is a racist.

LEO
Maybe so.

O'LEARY
Maybe?

(Continued)
LEO
Debbie--

O'LEARY
He's using his oversight authority to spit at poor people and minorities, which in his mind are the same thing--

LEO
Look--

O'LEARY
He's doing it because he can, and he's doing it because he can score points with his narrow-minded constituents.

LEO
His narrow-minded constituents are also our narrow-minded constituents.

O'LEARY
Oh, for cryin' out loud, Leo, when are you guys gonna stop running for president?

LEO
When angels dance on pinheads, Debbie. We need their votes on any number of issues, including, by the way, the budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

O'LEARY
Attacking HUD is code for attacking blacks.

LEO
Thanks. Having been born yesterday on a turnip truck--

O'LEARY
Do you not think it is my role as the highest ranking African-American woman in Government to point it out when--

LEO
I think, Debbie, that role, first and foremost, is to serve the President. A task today at which you failed spectacularly.

O'LEARY
Leo--

(continued)
LEO
You're gonna apologize.

O'LEARY
(pause)
I'm sorry.

LEO
(pause)
Not to me, Debbie.

O'LEARY
I called it like I saw it.

LEO
Well, now you're gonna apologize for it.

O'LEARY
I can't.

LEO
You can.

O'LEARY
I won't.

LEO
You will.

O'LEARY
Is this an order?

LEO
You're doin' great work, Deb. The President's nuts about you, always has been. He'll cry for three minutes after he fires your ass and then he'll say what's next.

O'LEARY
Leo, if I have to go and ask Wooden for forgiveness, he's gonna lord it over me from now until the end of time.

LEO
That's the cost of doing business.

O'LEARY
(pause)
Can I write it?

(Continued)
LEO
Sure, but then you'll have to read it.

O'LEARY
Cameras?

LEO
Yes, ma'am.

O'LEARY
(pause)
Done.

LEO
Deb. He's been trying to provoke you for months. When you give in to him, you surrender the high ground.

O'LEARY
(beat)
How did it happen?

LEO
You forgot what your grandfather taught you.

O'LEARY
What's that?

LEO
Never argue with a drunk or a fool.

O'LEARY
(beat)
Is the President very angry with me?

LEO
Mostly he's upset that you couldn't come up with anything better than "If the shoe fits."

And O'LEARY enjoys the first LAUGH she's had all day. LEO smiles...

LEO
Good luck.

O'LEARY
Thank you.

O'LEARY walks out as we:

CUT TO:
INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH
So that shoulda been it, right? C.J. Gregg does the two o'clock briefing, tells 'em Secretary O'Leary has an apology for Congressman Wooden, all questions about the matter'll be handled by her spokesperson, Donald Moralis, and re-directs their attention to the 700-million bucks of yours we just spent on teachers. Who here has had emergency root canal?

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE/BULLPEN AREA - DAY

JOSH is sitting at his desk, his head buried in work. There's a tap on the door. JOSH doesn't look up when he says--

JOSH
Yeah.

C.J.
Josh?

JOSH looks up. C.J.'s standing in the doorway. Her cheeks are stuffed with cotton and gauze. Articulation is a severe challenge for her right now.

JOSH
What the hell happened?

C.J.
I had woot canow.

JOSH
What happened to your cheeks?

C.J.
I had woot canow.

JOSH
And why are you talking like that?

C.J.
I had woot canow!

JOSH
Yeah, I heard you the first time, I was just amusing myself.

(CONTINUED)
C.J.
I can suggest some other things you can do with yourself.

JOSH
Are you in pain?

C.J.
I had woot canow!!

JOSH
You're gonna need to stop saying that 'cause you just look and sound so ridiculous.

C.J. is talking to JOSH as he walks in and out of his office with various business.

C.J.
I have to cancel the bwiefing.

JOSH
You can't.

C.J.
Look at me.

JOSH
You'll be great.

C.J.
I can't do the bwiefing.

JOSH
Why not?

C.J.
'Cause I can't even say bwiefing.

JOSH
You can't cancel the briefing. You gotta wrap up O'Leary, you gotta move 'em back to the bill signing.

C.J.
Joshua...

JOSH
(pause)
I'm sorry, did you just say my name?

C.J.
You really think I can do it?

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
Don't be insane, C.J., you're not going into a press briefing looking like Bullwinkle.

C.J.
So once again you were just having a little fun.

JOSH
Yeah.

C.J.
Ha ha ha ha ha ha....

JOSH
When can you take the cotton out?

C.J.
Two hours. I'll have Carol cancel the briefing.

JOSH
No, we're still doin' it.

C.J.
Who?

JOSH
Me.

C.J.
No way.

JOSH
C.J.--

C.J.
You get hostile.

JOSH
I get hot stuff?

C.J.
Hostile, hostile, you get hostile.

JOSH
I don't get hostile. I don't get randomly hostile. I get hostile when hostility is called for.

C.J.
Let Sam do it.

(continued)
JOSH
Sam went to Foggy Bottom.

C.J.
What's he doing in Foggy Bottom?

JOSH
Sorry, I just wanted to see if I
could make you say Foggy Bottom.
He's working with the speechwriters.

C.J.
Toby?

JOSH
Toby's with Leo and the President.

C.J.
Josh--

JOSH
"Hey there, cats and kittens, it's
Josh Lyman comin' at you with your
two o'clock briefing."

C.J.
Josh. Please. Be careful. Try very
very hard not to destroy us.

JOSH
(beat)
You shouldn't say that, C.J., you
got a great body.

C.J. hangs her head as JOSH heads off--

JOSH
Here we go!

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

The PRESS is milling around.

CAROL (OVER PA)
Please take your seats. We'll start
the briefing. Please take your seats.

REPORTERS are taking their seats as JOSH enters from the
back. He runs into DANNY.
DANNY
Josh.

JOSH
Hey.

DANNY
You're not gonna do this.

JOSH
Do the briefing?

DANNY
You're not gonna do this.

JOSH
I talk to reporters all the time, Danny.

DANNY
You really don't want to do this.

JOSH
Lemme tell you something, mi compadre. You guys have been coddled. I'm not your girlfriend. I'm not your camp counselor, I'm not your sixth grade teacher you had a crush on. I am a graduate of Harvard and Yale, and I believe that my powers of debate can rise to meet the Socratic wonder that is the White House Press Corps.

DANNY
(pause)
Okey-doke.

JOSH
(walking up to the podium)
Good afternoon everybody, would you take your seats, please. C.J. had a dental emergency so I'll handle the briefing today.

The PRESS immediately begins to shout "Josh!" "Josh!" --

CUT TO:
INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH
I'd like to say a couple of things in my own defense. First of all, everything was fine. I dispensed of the Deborah O'Leary matter with ease and poise. I opened the room to questions, while imposing a discipline I felt had been lacking in C.J.'s briefings.

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

JOSH
I'm gonna take one question a piece.

REPORTER #4 (MIKE)
Josh.

JOSH
Mike.

MIKE
When was the last time the President had a cigarette?

JOSH
Mike, you sure you want your one question to be that stupid?

INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

C.J.'s watching the monitor in disbelief--

C.J.
Oh, my God.

REPORTER #5 (ON MONITOR)
It's not a stupid question, Josh. If the President is gonna continue to be so adamantly anti-tobacco--

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - SAME TIME

REPORTER #5 (KATIE)
--why is it unreasonable to ask if he's a smoker?

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
The President quit smoking years ago.

REPORTER #3
He bummed a cigarette from me on Air Force One two days ago.

JOSH
(beat)
Well, then.
(beat)
Jonathan.

JONATHAN
You're not gonna answer Katie's question?

JOSH
I'll look into it. Danny.

DANNY
Josh, economists worry that the continuing drop in unemployment will create increased pressure on wages, in effect driving them up. Is the President worried that this could lead to a resurgence of inflation?

JOSH
Let me emphasize the President is pleased that unemployment has dropped another point-five percent. As a result--

DANNY
And I'm sure we all join the President in his joy. But I'm wondering, does the President have a plan to fight the resulting inflation.

JOSH
The President is doing everything in his power to maintain the robust economy that's created millions of new jobs, improved productivity and kept a lid on inflation.

REPORTER #5 (KATIE)
But he has no plan to address inflation specifically.

(continued)
JOSH
24 Ph.D.s on the Council of Economic Advisors, Katie, they have a plan to fight inflation.

DANNY
Is the reason you won’t tell us about it that it’s a secret?

JOSH
Yeah, Danny, we got a secret inflation plan.

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH
I guess that’s pretty much when the wheels came off the wagon.

NESSLER
Josh, right here is a good time to take our break. Everybody, stretch your legs for five minutes. The sign-in sheets for 202 are in the lobby. If you smoke, apparently you can bum a cigarette on Air Force One. Let’s have a hand for our guest, Joshua Lyman. Five minutes means five minutes.

Off the STUDENTS’ APPLAUSE, we:

EXT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

STUDENTS are spilling out into the fresh air. JOSH comes out as well, finding a private area and dialing his cell phone. A couple of FEMALE STUDENTS standing 30 feet away catch his eye.

FEMALE STUDENT
You’re great.

- JOSH
Thanks.

JOSH finishes dialing as we:

INTERCUT WITH:
INT. RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

They’re on back roads now. TOBY’s reclining back in his seat as far as it will go, pretty much resigned to spending the rest of his life in this car. His cell phone RINGS.

TOBY
(into phone)
Yeah.

JOSH
What's going on?

TOBY
Sam feels we’re zeroing in on it.

JOSH
You haven’t found it yet?

TOBY
We’ve been navigating by the North Star, which turned out to be the Delta Shuttle from LaGuardia. It’s a miracle we’re not in Nantucket right now.

JOSH
Toby, how hard can it be to find the Wesley police station?

TOBY
I don’t know, Josh. But while we’re looking, can you tell me a little more about the President’s secret plan to fight inflation?

JOSH
How long before you let up on me about that?

TOBY
It’s gonna be a little while I would think.

JOSH
Call me when you know something.

TOBY hangs up his phone.

SAM
There’s a store open up there. I’m gonna pull over and ask 'em if they know where the Wesley Police Station is.

(CONTINUED)
TOBY
Or you could just pull in over there at the Wesley Police Station and ask them.

SAM
(seeing it)
Hey.

TOBY
Yeah.

SAM
Look.

TOBY
Yeah.

SAM
We found it.

TOBY pops his seat up straight.

TOBY
Let's get this done and get outa here.

The rental car pulls into a small parking area in front of a low-slung building. The sign outside reads: WESLEY POLICE DEPT. - WESLEY FIRE DEPT.

FADE TO BLACK.
FADE IN:

INT. WESLEY POLICE STATION - NIGHT

A police officer (OFFICER PETER) is sitting at the desk of the otherwise sterile and in no way intimidating suburban police station. PETER's a young guy and is looking over a newspaper. He looks up as TOBY and SAM walk in. TOBY stands in back and SAM goes right to the desk to do the talking, taking out his wallet on the way.

SAM
Good evening.

PETER
Good evening.

SAM
(producing I.D.)
My name's Sam Seaborn, I work for the President of the United States. Is your Watch Commander around?

PETER
(beat)
Is this a joke?

SAM
No.

PETER
You walk in here and tell me you work for the President?

SAM
Officer Peter, we're in a certain amount of trouble tonight, and the only thing I've got going for me is that you're in more trouble than we are. My name is Sam Seaborn, I work for the President, and the sooner you reach the conclusion that I'm telling you the truth, the better off we're all gonna be. Why don't you get your Watch Commander.

PETER folds up his paper and puts it on the desk, then disappears into a back room.

There's silence as SAM and TOBY wait...

Then...

(CONTINUED)
SAM
Lemme tell you something. If we'd stayed
on the Merritt Parkway instead of getting
off at exit 29 and going east through
Greenwich, I don't think we'd have wound
up in Bridgeport so many times.

TOBY
(pause)
Shut up.

PETER comes out of the back room with MACNAMARA.

MACNAMARA
I'm Sergeant MacNamara, can I help you
folks?

SAM
Sergeant, I'm Sam Seaborn, I'm the Deputy
White House Communications Director,
that's my boss, Toby Ziegler.

MACNAMARA
I'm not really in a mood for a joke right
now.

SAM
I know how you feel. You've got Roberto
Mendoza locked up back there.

MACNAMARA
Sir, please state your business here or
I'm gonna have to ask you to leave.

SAM
My business is to tell you to unlock the
cell and gimme Mendoza.

PETER sees something on the front page of his newspaper.

PETER
Sergeant?

MACNAMARA
You come in here, ten o'clock at night,
you tell me you're from the White House
and I'm just supposed to--

PETER
Sergeant.

(CONTINUED)
PETER shows him the newspaper. The blood drains from
MACNAMARA's face as he looks at TOBY, who's staring back at
him.

He looks back at the newspaper. Above the fold is a picture
of BARTLET drafting a letter at his desk in the Oval Office.
Standing right over his shoulder is TOBY.

MACNAMARA and PETER are frozen in the headlights.

SAM
Sergeant, you arrested a Federal Judge
who's the President's nominee for the
U.S. Supreme Court.

Reality is beginning to set in for MACNAMARA.

The phone RINGS. And RINGS again.

SAM
You should get that. That's gonna be the
Governor of Connecticut.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Various REPORTERS are shouting. JOSH wants to kill himself.

REPORTER #1
Josh, when will the President unveil
his secret plan?

JOSH
There is no secret plan.

REPORTER #2
You said--

JOSH
I was talkin' to Danny, I was kidding.

REPORTER #3
These are people's jobs we're talkin'
about, Josh, you wanna give us a straight
answer?

JOSH
I honestly can't remember the question.
REPORTER #3
Given the reduction in unemployment, does the President have a plan to fight the ensuing inflation--

REPORTER #2
--and if so, why's he keeping it a secret.

JOSH glances over at DANNY, who flashes him a little "Dude, I kinda told you so" look.

CUT TO:

INT. WEST WING CORRIDOR - DAY

The door to the Press Briefing Room is opened from the inside by CAROL and JOSH flies out, still hearing shouted questions at his back.

DONNA's waiting for him.

DONNA
Oh my God, Josh. I mean, oh my God.

The two of them are walking quickly toward JOSH's office.

JOSH
I can fix this.

DONNA
How?

JOSH
I can fix this.

DONNA
I don't think you can.

JOSH
This'd be a great time to feel a little support from you, Donna.

DONNA
You have my support, Josh.

JOSH
Do I?

DONNA
Yes.

(Continued)
JOSH
Okay. Good. That's a start. Tell me what you think I should do right now.

DONNA
Go into your office and come up with a secret plan to fight inflation.

JOSH
That's support, Donna? That's--

C.J. comes out of her office--

C.J.
Joshua!

JOSH
(recoiling)
Yeah, that's the face I wanted to see right now.

C.J.
What the hell happened in there?

JOSH
C.J.--

C.J.
You completely imploded.

JOSH
(pause)
What'd I do?

DONNA
You completely imploded.

JOSH
I wouldn't say completely.

C.J.
You were vague. You were hostile. You were belligerent--

DONNA
(to JOSH)
Belligerent.

C.J.
Do you know what it's gonna take for me to fix this?

They go into--
JOSH
I'm gonna fix this.

C.J.
No you're not. You're not even allowed in my press room again!

JOSH
Donna, call Toby's office and find out if he was watching.

DONNA exits and BOOM! We hear a door fly open off screen--

TOBY
Where the hell is he?

JOSH
(calling to DONNA)
Never mind.

TOBY walks in--

JOSH
Toby--

TOBY
Have you fallen on your head?

JOSH
Listen--

TOBY
Have you fallen down and hit your head on something hard?

JOSH
I feel bad about this.

TOBY
Well then I guess that's all that matters.

JOSH
Hey--

TOBY
That was some pretty good television, Josh. I think four network news directors are gonna bear me out on that tonight.
JOSH
I really think it's not as bad as you're making it out to be.

C.J.
A seaquit pwan to frite infrathon??!!

TOBY
(beat)
'Kay, C.J.? For a little while, just write it down.

SAM comes in--

SAM
We've got a problem.

TOBY
No kidding.

SAM
Not Josh.

JOSH
Praise God.

SAM
Though I gotta say telling a reporter his question's stupid isn't like a page outa Dale Carnegie or anything.

JOSH
Thank you.

TOBY
What's the problem?

SAM
You're not gonna like it.

TOBY
Sam, believe me, the only thing that could make this day worse is if Roberto Mendoza got involved.

SAM is looking at TOBY...

TOBY
What'd he do?

CUT TO:
JOSH
Robert Mendoza is the President's nominee to fill Crouch's seat on the Supreme Court. The President put Toby in charge of his confirmation, which is a huge responsibility. A failed confirmation for the Court is a body blow to a Presidency. Besides which, he's a brilliant jurist and we badly want him on the bench. The confirmation process is a tough needle to thread, you gotta make a lot of friends, and Supreme Court nominees don't speak before their confirmation. They let the White House speak for them. Something Toby's had a little bit of trouble teaching Roberto Mendoza.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY

TOBY, SAM, JOSH and C.J. are sitting at the table as LEO comes in--

LEO
He said the President was wrong?

C.J.
He said the President was wrong to make Secretary O'weevey apologize. He said--

LEO
What the hell--

TOBY
C.J. (to SAM)
Tell him.

SAM
He said the President was wrong to make Secretary O'Leary apologize.

LEO
To who?

SAM
To Wooden.

(continued)
LEO
I'm sayin' who did he say it to?

TOBY
The Chicago Tribune.

LEO
I thought he's on vacation.

SAM
He is.

LEO
I thought he's on vacation in Nova Scotia.

SAM
He is.

LEO
They called him in Nova Scotia?

SAM
Yeah.

LEO
How the hell did they find him in Nova Scotia?

JOSH
They have telephones in Nova Scotia, Leo, it's not Amish country.

LEO
(beat)
I really think of all the people in the building, Josh, you wanna be the last one to speak right now.

JOSH
You bet.

There's a long, long silence before C.J. pipes up quietly...

C.J.
The President needs to be briefed on the events of the day.

TOBY
(slowly)
C.J.... so help me God... if you say the words "president" or "briefed" again...

(CONTINUED)
(pause)
All right. The President lands in New Orleans in an hour and a half. There'll be no press at the labor conference, and when he's done, he's getting right back on the plane and coming home. Wheels-down is three a.m. he'll be in the Residence by 3:30.

JOSH

(beat)
Can I say something?

LEO

What?

JOSH

A lot of this is our fault, and the President’s probably not gonna take this very well, and we want you to know that we’re gonna be there with you in spirit tomorrow morning.

LEO

You’re gonna be there with me in every way imaginable, Josh.

JOSH

You bet.

LEO

(exiting)
Seven a.m.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH

And if you read the papers, you know this isn't the first time this had happened. In the eight weeks since the President named his nominee, Judge Mendoza has, on various occasions, publicly criticized the American Bar Association, the AFL-CIO and the New York State Legislature. Three organizations without which this President wouldn’t have been elected.

(MORE)
CONTINUED:

JOSH (cont'd)
Putting out the Deborah O'Leary fire from earlier in the day was the only thing we'd been successful at, and Judge Mendoza had just--

JOSH's cell phone RINGS...

JOSH
--he'd just, you know, started it up again. I'm really very sorry, I have to take this.

JOSH stands with the phone and turns away.

NESSLER
You know an interesting thing about what Josh had just mentioned...

NESSLER keeps the class' focus as JOSH talks off to the side.

JOSH
(into phone)
Yeah.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WESLEY POLICE STATION - SAME TIME

SAM
Josh.

JOSH
Yeah.

SAM
We're in.

JOSH
Where is he?

SAM
Toby's talking to him now.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

PETER slides the bars open and TOBY stands there staring. ROBERTO MENDOZA is lounging on the cot, his head propped up against the wall. Toby would like very much to administer a thorough beating. He doesn't move.

(CONTINUED)
TOBY
evenly.
Hello, Mr. Justice. How are you?

MENDOZA
I'm incarcerated, Toby, how are you?

PETER
Do you need anything, Mr. Ziegler?

TOBY doesn't take his eyes off MENDOZA...

TOBY
No. The Judge and I are gonna have a chat.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE
INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH
The hardest job in the White House is the President. The second hardest job is not Chief of Staff, it's not National Security Advisor and it's not Press Secretary, though I'm gaining a certain amount of respect for press secretaries.

Everyone LAUGHS.

JOSH
The hardest job in the White House belongs to a 21 year-old kid named Charlie Young. He's what's called the President's body man, his personal aide. He's with the President morning to night, he has a range of responsibilities, all of them difficult, but the one he hates the most is this: From time to time it's his job to wake the President up in the morning. And on this particular morning, the President had gone to sleep only three hours earlier.

CUT TO:

INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - MORNING

CHARLIE's standing at his desk doing a couple of things at once, including waiting for someone to pick up on the other end of the phone he's holding.

OPERATOR (OVER PHONE)
Good morning, White House. Operator #4, how may I direct your call?

CHARLIE
Good morning, Helen, it's Charlie.

OPERATOR (OVER PHONE)
Hey, babe: How was New Orleans?

CHARLIE
The President did very well.

OPERATOR (OVER PHONE)
Have you been to sleep yet?

(CONTINUED)
CHARLIE

Since when?

OPERATOR (OVER PHONE)

Since yesterday.

CHARLIE

(laughing)

Good one, Helen. It's time for the President's wake-up call.

OPERATOR (OVER PHONE)

Lucky you. Lemme put you through.

INT. BARTLET'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The curtains are drawn and BARTLET's sound asleep when the phone on his nightstand RINGS. Once... Twice... CHARLIE knows this isn't an easy one... Three times...

BARTLET picks up the phone. He's not so much groggy as he is wide awake and totally asleep at the same time. It's not a stone cold lock that he knows exactly who he is or what he does for a living at the moment.

BARTLET

(into phone)

What?

CHARLIE

Good morning, Mr. President, it's Charlie. I hope--

BARTLET

I mean what could you possibly want right now?

CHARLIE

Sir, it's 6:30 a.m. and I--

BARTLET

In the morning?

CHARLIE

Yes, sir. And I wanted to remind you that--

BARTLET

I mean what in the name of everything holy could you want right now?

(CONTINUED)
CHARLIE
I wanted to remind you that you have a seven a.m. meeting in the Oval Office with senior staff, followed by your security and intelligence briefings and a meeting with the Chairman of the Fed. Would you like me to have the stewards bring you some coffee and the Washington Post?

BARTLET
(pause)
Who the hell is this?

CHARLIE
Sir--

BARTLET
And what could you possibly want?!

CHARLIE
Sir? I need you to dig in now. It wasn't a nightmare. You really are the President.

BARTLET
(pause)
Okay.

CHARLIE
I'll have a steward bring the coffee to your room.

BARTLET
I'll get up now.

BARTLET hangs up the phone and goes back to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - DAY

SAM is in his office as TOBY passes his door--

SAM
Toby.

TOBY
Did you talk to Mendoza?

SAM
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)
TOBY
Is he getting over here?

- SAM
Yes.

TOBY
What time?

SAM
Day after tomorrow.

TOBY
Sam—

SAM
I know.

TOBY
I want him here now.

SAM
He's gotta drive down from Nova Scotia.

TOBY
He's driving?

SAM
Yeah.

TOBY
'Cause he doesn't know there are airplanes now?

SAM
He's with his wife and kid. They're on vacation. They like the car.

TOBY
He's driving from Nova Scotia to Washington.

SAM
Yeah, and he wants to make a quick stop in Connecticut.

- TOBY
Why?

SAM
He likes to go antiquing.

(CONTINUED)
TOBY
pause.
Well...

I really don't know what to say to that.

INT. FOYER OUTSIDE BARTLET'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A STEWARD is standing outside the door waiting with a coffee service. CHARLIE comes around the corner--

STEWARD

Charlie--

CHARLIE

Oh, come on.

STEWARD

I've been knocking every few minutes or so. I don't hear the shower running either.

CHARLIE

Thanks, Billy, gimme a minute would you?

The STEWARD steps away from the door as CHARLIE knocks and then lets himself into--

INT. BARTLET'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE goes up to BARTLET's bed and gives him a little shake.

CHARLIE

Mr. President?

CHARLIE shakes him.

CHARLIE

Mr. President?

CHARLIE shakes him.

CHARLIE

Mr. President?

CHARLIE shakes him.

(CONTINUED)
BARTLET
Charlie, are you aware you're committing a Federal crime right now?

CHARLIE
I'll take my chances with the Feds, Mr. President, it's seven o'clock.

BARTLET
How did you know the First Lady wasn't gonna be naked when you came in here? Come to think of it, where the hell's my wife?

CHARLIE
Argentina.

BARTLET
That's right.

CHARLIE
Senior staff in the Oval Office, sir. Now I'm gonna stand here while you get out of bed, take a shower and get dressed, Mr. President.

BARTLET
(getting up)
Have you slept yet?

CHARLIE
No, sir.

BARTLET
Good.

CUT TO:

INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - MORNING

LEO, TOBY, JOSH, SAM and C.J. are sitting or standing around the room in quiet dread.

After a long moment...

JOSH
(to C.J.)
How's your mouth?

C.J.
Well... the swelling's gone down. On the other hand, the painkillers have worn off.

(CONTINUED)
Another brutally long silence...

LEO
He's driving from Nova Scotia to Washington?

SAM
Yeah.

LEO
How does a person do that?

SAM
My guess is he'll take the Trans Canada Highway to New Brunswick, then maybe catch the 1 and take the scenic route along the coast of Maine. 95 through New Hampshire to the Mass Pike and then cross over to the Merritt Parkway around Milford.

They're all staring at SAM.

TOBY
There's something kind of freakish about you, you know that?

SAM
(beat)
Yeah.

BARTLET comes in, followed by CHARLIE. He doesn't stop walking as he says--

BARTLET
I'm tired, I'm cranky and my wife's in Argentina. Let's get this over with.

They follow him into--

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Everyone has settled into a kind of semi-circle around the President. BARTLET's waiting for someone to speak.

BARTLET
(pause)
What?

LEO
Mr. President, we experienced a few public relations... what's the word--

(CONTINUED)
Toby

Catastrophes.

Leo

--incidents in the few hours you were away last night.

Bartlet

(beat)

What kind of incidents?

Leo

Josh?

JOSH

Yeah.

(beat).

Ah. First, I'm happy to tell you that the incident involving Secretary O'Leary and Congressman Wooden has been dispensed with. Though not really, and I'll get to that at the end. Sam asked C.J. to move her briefing to two o'clock so we could fold in the teachers. C.J. had emergency root canal surgery at noon and so was unable to brief.

Bartlet

Who did?

JOSH

I did.

Bartlet

Oh, God.

JOSH

Yeah. Long story short, you're gonna be reading a bit today about your secret plan to fight inflation.

Bartlet

(beat)

I have a secret plan to fight inflation?

JOSH

No.

Bartlet

Why am I gonna be reading that I do?

(Continued)
JOSH
It was suggested in the press room that you do.

BARTLET
By who?

JOSH
By me.

BARTLET
(pause)
You told the press I have a secret plan to fight inflation?

JOSH
No. I did not. Let's be absolutely clear. I did not do that. Except, yes, I did that.

BARTLET
Josh--

JOSH
Sir, there was this idiotic round robin about. It was sarcastic, there was no way they didn't know that. They were just mad at me for imposing discipline and calling them stupid.

BARTLET
(beat)
Okay. Before we go. C.J., if blood is gushing from the head wound you just received from a stampeding herd of bison, you do the press briefing.

C.J.
Yes, sir.

JOSH
Mr. President--

BARTLET
A secret plan to fight inflation?

JOSH
Sir, there was no turning them back. I denied it for a half-hour and they wouldn't take no for answer.

BARTLET
Were you clear?
JOSH
I was **crystal** clear. They said, "Do you think if the President has a plan to fight inflation that it's right to keep it a secret?" I said, "Of course not."

BARTLET is staring at JOSH in amazement...

BARTLET
Are you telling me that not only did you invent a secret plan to fight inflation... but you don't support it?!

JOSH
(beat)
When you put it like that--

TOBY
Mr. President, much as we would love nothing more than to stand here and watch you... beat the living crap out of Josh, there's actually a bigger fish to fry.

BARTLET slumps down in his chair...

BARTLET
What'd Mendoza do?

TOBY
He told the Chicago Tribune that you were wrong to admonish Debbie O'Leary and make her apologize.

BARTLET
I didn't! **He** did!

LEO
You told me to.

BARTLET
You said you were gonna fix it.

LEO
I **did** fix it.

BARTLET
Well, it's broken again, Leo.

TOBY
Frankly, sir, that's 'cause your nominee for the Supreme Court's handling himself in a manner that's totally unprofessional.

(CONTINUED)
BARTLET
We will have the first of what I think will be a series of discussions about professionalism another time, Toby. Where's Mendoza?

SAM
He's on his way.

BARTLET
Right now?

SAM
Yes, but he won't be here 'til the day after tomorrow.

BARTLET
Day after tomorrow?

SAM
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
Is he coming in from Neptune?

SAM
He's vacationing with his wife and son and they'd prefer to take a... leisurely drive through Eastern Canada and New England, stopping for some antique shopping in Connecticut.

(pause)
I imagine he'll take the Trans Canada Highway to 95 and--

TOBY
Sam.

BARTLET
(calmly and evenly)
Okay. We will wait for Mendoza. In the meantime, C.J., you will untangle the press corps--

C.J.
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
--and we will hope that nothing happens today to make this worse, though I certainly wouldn't bet the house on it.

(beat)
That is all.

(continued)
ALL

Thank you, Mr. President.

Everyone exits through different doors. JOSH stays behind a moment.

JOSH

Mr. President?

BARTLET looks up...

JOSH

I just wanted to say I was sorry and that this mess will be cleaned up in an adult and professional manner.

BARTLET

Good.

JOSH

(beat)

If anyone asks you, you quit smoking years ago and the cigarette you bummed on Air Force One was for a friend.

BARTLET

(pause)

Get out.

JOSH

You bet.

JOSH exits as we:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH

And that was it.

NESSLER

What happened to Judge Mendoza?

JOSH

I'm sorry?

NESSLER

Did the judge get here from Nova Scotia?
JOSH
He's on his way right now. Actually
he's spending the night in Connecticut
to do some antiquing.

NESSLER
Well, I think everyone would agree that
was a hell of a day. And I'm sure you're
relied it didn't get any worse than
that.

CUT TO:

54 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The same scene from the opening--

LEO
Have someone find his lawyer and talk to
him. Sam, there's an Air Force Lear jet
with it's motor running. Fly to
Westchester County Airport, rent a car,
drive to Wesley and get the next
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court
outa jail. C.J., Sam sees one reporter
when he gets off that plane, I'm gonna
blame you.

C.J.
Toby's got you covered there.

TOBY
I'm going with Sam.

LEO

Toby-

TOBY
The judge and I are gonna have an
abrupt conversation.

CUT TO:

55 INT. WESLEY POLICE STATION - NIGHT

SAM is standing casually with a cup of coffee. MACNAMARA and
PETER stand awkwardly behind the desk.

MACNAMARA
He's been in there a little while
now.

(CONTINUED)
SAM
(beat)
Yeah.

There's a long silence...

MACNAMARA
I was the one that pulled him over, you know. His driving was erratic.
(beat)
I'm still not entirely convinced he hadn't been drinking.

SAM
Well, you got a problem there.

MACNAMARA
What's that.

SAM
Judge Mendoza has chronic persistent hepatitis, which is a non-progressive form of liver inflammation. If he'd had enough to drink to blow a point-one on the blood-alcohol he'd be dead right now.
(pause)
This is good coffee.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

TOBY
Why didn't you take the Breathalyzer?

MENDOZA
I was driving within the speed limit, I was driving on the right side of the road, I have valid tags and registration, and as far as I know there is not a warrant for my arrest in Connecticut.

TOBY
Judge--

MENDOZA
Absent just cause, Toby, a Breathalyzer is an illegal search and a civil rights violation.

TOBY
So you give Barney Fife a hard time to make a point?  

(CONTINUED)
MENDEZ
It's a point worth making.

TOBY
Not now.

MENDEZ
Yes now. Right now.

TOBY
One phone call, Judge. "Toby, this has happened, tell 'em my name's Roberto Mendoza and the President's named me to the bench!"

MENDEZ
I got pulled over 'cause I look like my name's Roberto Mendoza and I'm comin' to rob your house!

TOBY
(pause)
Let's go.

MENDEZ
(pause)
Let's go where?

TOBY
Home. Let's go home.

MENDEZ
I'm not goin' anywhere.

TOBY
Judge--

MENDEZ
I'm under arrest, Toby.

TOBY
Not anymore, let's go.

MENDEZ
You pull all the strings you want, you're not doin' it for me, man. Come Monday morning I will avail myself of the criminal justice system for which I have worked my entire adult life.

TOBY
Judge. Due respect. Get up, get your things, and let's go.

(CONTINUED)
MENDOZA
I'm staying in this cell for the weekend, Toby. I'm appearing in front of a judge, and I'm getting the case dismissed. If the President has a problem with that, tell him to shove it up his ass.

TOBY
You're being--

MENDOZA
My kid was in that car, Toby!

And TOBY's nearly blown back by the force of Mendoza's emotion.

MENDOZA
(pause)
I was cuffed and patted down in front of my nine year-old boy. And he and his mother watched while they put me in a squad car and took me away.

TOBY
He's also seen you wearing a robe with a gavel in your hand.

MENDOZA
He doesn't understand that, he doesn't know what that is. He understands the police, he watches TV. That's what he's gonna remember. That they handcuffed his father. So America just got one more pissed-off guy with dark skin.

TOBY
(pause)
Robbie and Laura, where are they right now?

MENDOZA
They're at a motel a few miles.

TOBY
(pause)
There's nothing about this that doesn't stink. If it were me, I'd want to extract vengeance, and I'd say let justice be done. I'd also want to spend some time in a dark room alone. So that I didn't have to face my wife and my son and have them see my humiliation.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
TOBY (cont'd)
Bob, I can't get it done if this is a story. I can't get it done.
(beat)
There's nothing about this that doesn't stink. And nothing about this that wouldn't be better if you were a Justice on the Supreme Court.
(beat)
Lemme take you to the motel. Go see your boy.

We HOLD a moment before we:

INT. WESLEY POLICE STATION - NIGHT

SAM, MACNAMARA and PETER are much as they were before. After a moment...

PETER
So. Can I ask? A guy in your job. Do you know missile codes and that sort of thing?

SAM takes a sip of his coffee...

Yeah.

SAM

PETER
(beat)
Outstanding.

TOBY and MENDOZA come out from a hallway--

SAM
Good evening, Mr. Justice.

MENDOZA
Hey, Sam.

TOBY
(to the cops)
He's got some personal items?

PETER
Yes, sir.'

PETER goes to wherever he goes to get Mendoza's things.

TOBY
This is your lucky night, officers.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
TOBY 'cont'd:
There isn't gonna be a report, there isn't gonna be an investigation, no one's getting suspended and no one's filing a hundred-million dollar lawsuit against the county that they would almost surely win. But in this room, you're gonna apologize to Mr. Mendoza. Then you're gonna get in your squad car, you're gonna follow us, and you're gonna apologize to his son.

MACNAMARA
Judge Mendoza, we sincerely apologize for our mistake.

MENDOZA
Thank you.

TOBY
Let's go.

SAM
I also gotta say you guys could do a better job marking the exits on the thruway.

TOBY
Let's go.

MACNAMARA
We'll be behind you.

MACNAMARA and PETER go out the back. MENDOZA is putting together his personal things.

SAM starts dialing his cell phone...

MENDOZA
You know, Toby, if there's no reason you guys have to go back to Washington, you could spend the night up here.

TOBY
What's up here?

MENDOZA
Aw, there's great antiquing.

MENDOZA is done and heads for the door.

TOBY
You're killin' me, Judge. You're absolutely killin' me.

(Continued)
SAM
(into phone)
Josh. It's over.

And they're out the front door as we:

OUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

JOSH is on his phone. He smiles...

JOSH
(into phone)
Yeah.

(beat)
Good.

JOSH hangs up and puts the phone away.

JOSH
(to the STUDENTS)
That's the last time the phone'll ring.

NESSLER
Josh--

JOSH
There's a part of this story that I didn't tell you. I can't. Trust me, it doesn't involve... I just can't for a little while. Ask me back again after the Senate confirms Mendoza. You really should hear it, it's a good story.

NESSLER
Why don't we take some questions.

JOSH
Yeah.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW