THE WEST WING

"Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics"

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THE WEST WING

"Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics"

CAST LIST

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

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

POLLSTER
HASKEL
RODNEY
LARSEN
KATO
KONRAD
JANEANE
REPORTER #2
FEMALE POLLSTERS
MITCHEL
COCHRAN
LOBELL
KASSENBACK
THE WEST WING

"Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

THE PHONE BANK

WHITE HOUSE

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

LIBRARY *

EXTERIORS

THE WHITE HOUSE ~ NIGHT/DAY
PORTICO - DAY
TERRACE - NIGHT
JANEANE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT
"Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics"

TEASER

From the BLACK we HEAR:

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

SAM (VO)
It's okay.

FADE IN:

INT. THE PHONE BANK - NIGHT

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

TITLE:

Central Phone Banks
National Strategies Group

MANDY
I'm just sayin'.

SAM
We're fine.

MANDY
This thing--

SAM
I know.

MANDY
This thing was supposed to start five minutes ago.

SAM
We'll get it started.

MANDY
Here goes the Eastern seaboard.

SAM
We'll get it started.

(CONTINUED)
MANDY
New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, Atlanta, Miami...
Those aren't very big markets, so I wouldn't worry about--

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

MANDY calls out to a POLLSTER--

MANDY
What are you doing?

SAM
Mandy--

MANDY
What are you doing?

POLLSTER
I was--

MANDY
You were putting gum in your mouth?

POLLSTER
Yeah, 'cause--

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

POLLSTER
The polling hasn't started yet.

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

SAM
Mandy?

MANDY
Yeah?

SAM
These people have done this before.

(CONTINUED)
MANDY
They're not our people.

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

MANDY
None of them have accents?

SAM
They're all out of the midwest.

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

SAM
(calling up)
Do any of you people have accents?

Nobody says anything...

MANDY
(calling up)
Do any of you people have the power of speech?

SAM
They're fine.

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

SAM
She'll do it, too, so--

MANDY
What the hell's going on over there?

SAM
At the White House?

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

SAM
They're having some last minute debate.

(CONTINUED)
MANDY
About what?

SAM
The wording of some of the questions.

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

SAM
Mandy--

MANDY
How much can these people find to debate?

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

INT. WEST WING CORRIDOR - NIGHT
--as JOSH and DONNA head to the Roosevelt Room.

JOSH
It's 7:05?

DONNA
Yeah.

JOSH
That's ridiculous.

DONNA
I'm not making it up.

JOSH
My watch says ten to seven.

DONNA
That's 'cause your watch sucks.

JOSH
My watch is fine.

DONNA
Your watch says ten to seven.

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

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

They walk into--

INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

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

TOBY
Question Six is asymmetrical.

C.J.
Question Six is fine.

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

JOSH
He's got a good point about this.

C.J.
No, he doesn't.

DONNA
You guys know it's five after seven?

TOBY
It should be right direction or wrong direction.

C.J.
Toby--

TOBY
Direction and track are two different words.

C.J.
Thank you, Funk and Wagnalls.

TOBY
What'd she just call me?

(CONTINUED)
GINGER
Funk and Wagnalls. They make the dictionary.

TOBY
I know who Funk and Wagnalls are.

BONNIE
Then why did you ask her?

DONNA
Guys, it's five after seven.

TOBY
The question's asymmetrical.

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

They head out into--

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

JOSH
I have a problem with 14.

C.J.
What's your problem?

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

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

By now, they've made their way into--
--where LEO, ED, LARRY and some STAFFERS are sitting or standing around the table, papers spread out in front of them. There are several telephones on the table as well.

    LEO
    C.J.--
    C.J.
    Yes.

    LEO.
    "Jed Bartlet cares about people like me."

    C.J.
    Leo, we went over this--

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

    C.J.
    We really don't.

    TOBY
    Since when are you an expert on language?

    C.J.
    In polling models?

    TOBY
    Yeah.

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

    TOBY
    Since long before that.

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

    C.J.
    Again, we went over this, and--

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

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

LARRY
Or "People like you."

ED
I've seen it both ways.

LEO
Fellas--

LARRY
"Yourself" sounds a little softer.

ED
And softer is bad?

LARRY
Softer is better.

LEO
The point is--

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

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

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

TOBY
There's still the matter--

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

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

C.J. (cont'd)

(beat)
It's time.

LEO knows she's right...

LEO
Anybody want to make a prediction?

ED
We'll hold at 42 percent job approval.

LARRY
We'll hold steady.

JOSH
I'll be happy if we hold steady.

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

LEO
C.J.?

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

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

C.J.
The President's wrong.

LEO
You think?

C.J.
Yes.

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

CUT TO:

INT. THE PHONE BANKS - NIGHT

SAM answers a RINGING phone--

SAM
(into phone)
Sam Seaborn.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SAM (cont'd)
(beat)
Okay.

He hangs up.

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

MANDY
(to the GROUP)
Here we go.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

TITLE:

Monday Night
3 Hours Into Polling

INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - NIGHT

As SAM walks in wearing his overcoat.

GINGER
Hey, Sam.

SAM
Hey, Ginger.

BONNIE
How's it going over there?

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

GINGER
Bonnie wanted to know why it takes 48 hours.

SAM
We need 1500 responses.

BONNIE
It takes 30 people 48 hours to make 1500 calls?

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

TOBY comes into the bullpen--

TOBY
(motioning into his office)

Sam.

SAM
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)
BONNIE
Only one in four people don't hang up?

SAM
That's if you're lucky.

SAM goes into--

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

---TOBY closes the door.

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

SAM
Yeah.

TOBY
Were you gonna go see your friend?

SAM
Laurie.

SAM
Yeah.

SAM
I wish you'd call her Laurie.

TOBY
Were you gonna go see her graduate law school tomorrow?

SAM
Yeah.

TOBY
You can't.

SAM
(beat)
Okay.

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

SAM
Yeah.

(continues)
TOBY
--he'll try and use it to embarrass us.

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

SAM
Laurie.

TOBY
What?

SAM
You called her "this girl."

TOBY
Sam, you can't--

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

TOBY
No.

SAM
Anything else?

TOBY
No.

SAM gets up and stops at the door--

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

TOBY
Not just South Carolina, Sam.

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

TOBY
You can't go, Sam.
SAM
I'm not going.

TOBY
Thank you.

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

CUT TO:

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

LEO's at his desk as MARGARET comes in.

MARGARET
Leo?

LEO
Is he here?

MARGARET
Yeah.

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

MARGARET
Okay.

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

MARGARET
Why do you want me to wait?

LEO
'Cause I do.

MARGARET
(beat)
Okay.

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

MARGARET
It feels weird to not be doing anything.

LEO
(not paying attention)
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)
MARGARET
(pause)
It feels weird, you know, 'cause the
instinct--

LEO
Okay, go out and send him in.

MARGARET
Okay.

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

LEO
Barry?

HASKEL
Yes.

LEO
Leo McGarry.

HASKEL
Barry Haskel.

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

HASKEL
My first time in the west wing.

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

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

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

HASKEL
Right. I had a hunch. Could I possibly
have a glass of fruit juice?
LEO
Are you thirsty?

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

LEO
You're a little nervous.

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

LEO
Rodney?

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

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

RODNEY, a marine corporal, appears in the doorway.

RODNEY
Yes, Mr. McGarry.

LEO
Could you do that thing you were doing before?

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

LEO
They work on that for a while.

HASKEL
Yes.

LEO
Thanks, Rodney.

Sure.

RODNEY disappears.

(Continued)
LEO
Amazing, and that rifle’s really loaded, too.

HASKELE
Mr. McGarry--

LEO
Call me Leo.

LEO--

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

HASKELE
(beat)
I’m sorry?

LEO
I say we know you’re one of us.

SIX COMMISSIONERS ON THE F.E.C. TWO JUST RESIGNED, LEAVING FOUR INCLUDING YOU. THE BELIEF HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT NONE OF THE FOUR OF YOU FAVOR A BAN ON SOFT MONEY CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT THE TRUTH IS YOU DO.

HASKELE
That’s not true.

LEO
Yes, it is. And the way that I know that it is is ‘cause you said so.

(CHECKING NOTES)
You said so to the Newark Star-Ledger on March 13th, 1995--“Money isn’t speech”--and you said so two years before that to the Detroit Free Press--“We must reverse the 1978 Regulatory decision allowing soft money.”

HASKELE
Those were anonymous quotes.

LEO
Not anymore.
HASKELE
I gave those quotes on the condition of anonymity.

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

HASKELE
Look--

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

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

LEO
I understand.

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

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

HASKELE
Exactly.

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

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

LEO
What's that?
HASKEL
That you’d use the trappings of the
White House—that there’d be a sort of
intimidation—

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

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

LEO
Barry—

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

LEO
Nonsense. Lemme show you around the
place.

LEO heads for the side door as HASKEL gets up—

HASKEL
If I could just get a glass of water.

LEO
No problem, we keep it in here.

And LEO leads HASKEL through the door and into—

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE — CONTINUOUS

LEO
Mr. President, I’m so sorry to interrupt.

BARTLET
Not at all, we were just having a
nightcap.

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

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

LARSEN
Hello.

KATO
How are you?

KONRAD
Good to see you.

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

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

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

LEO
Barry's a little thirsty.

BARTLET
Let's get him a drink.

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

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

BARTLET
Leo--

They step into--

INT. VESTIBULE - CONTINUOUS

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

LEO
Just put him in the boat.

(CONTINUED)
BARTLET
(pause)
This could all be for nothing.

LEO
Yeah.

BARTLET
I mean if the numbers--

LEO
Yeah.

BARTLET
Did we start?

LEO
We put the poll in the field three hours ago.

BARTLET
(beat)
All right.

(beat)
Did the guys make any predictions?

LEO
No, I didn’t ask.

BARTLET
Yes, you did.

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

BARTLET
That could be worse.

LEO
Yeah.
BARTLET
I mean it could be worse than holding at 42.

LEO
Yeah.

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

LEO
I'll stop back in in ten minutes.

BARTLET
A dress marine guarding your office?

LEO
Too showy?

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

LEO
I'll be right in here.

BARTLET
Thanks.

LEO
Thank you, Mr. President.

LEO and BARTLET go their separate ways as we:

CUT TO:
INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Laurie, and her friend, Janeane, are at a table.

Janeane
You're graduating tomorrow.

Laurie
Ssh.

Janeane
You're graduating tomorrow--

Laurie
Janeane--

Janeane
And yet you're in a library studying.

Laurie
There's something called the bar exam.

Janeane
Are you taking it tonight?

Laurie
No.

Janeane
Then let's go out.

Laurie
Just gimme ten more--

Laurie's cell phone starts ringing in her purse.

Janeane
Is that me?

Laurie
That's me.

Laurie starts to get out her phone.

Janeane
See, the advantage of being a waitress?

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

Janeane
That's right.
CONTINUED:

LAURIE
You're not always gonna be a waitress.

JANEANE
Answer your phone.

LAURIE
(into phone)
Hello.

INTERCUT WITH:

15A INT. SAM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

SAM
Are you at the library?
LAURIE
It's you.

SAM
Are you at the library the night before--

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

SAM
Nobody does. Listen...

LAURIE-
(beat)
You can't come tomorrow?

SAM
No.

LAURIE
I understand.

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

LAURIE
That moment's now?

SAM
Yeah.

LAURIE
That's okay.

SAM
It's not okay, but--

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

SAM
I will.

(CONTINUED)
LAURIE
And I'll be thinking about you.

SAM wishes he could say something more...

LAURIE
Sam?

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

LAURIE
Okay.

SAM
Okay.

LAURIE hangs up...

LAURIE
He can't make it.

JANEANE
I kinda guessed.

LAURIE
Don't worry about it.

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

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT ONE
FADE IN:

16 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - DAY

As SAM comes in.

TITLE:

Tuesday Morning
11 Hours Into Polling

BONNIE
Good morning, Sam.

SAM
Hey, Bonnie. You know what’s fun?

BONNIE
What?

SAM
The Potomac in the morning.

BONNIE
Yeah?

SAM
Jogging along the Potomac. Or skulling.

GINGER
Were you jogging this morning?

SAM
No.

BONNIE
Were you skulling?

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

TOBY comes out of his office--

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

BONNIE
For when?

(CONTINUED)
TOBY
Soon as possible. And I need the next
two minutes the President’s got.

SAM
You found one?

TOBY
Yes.

SAM
What?

TOBY
Ambassador to the Federated States of
Micronesia.

SAM
(beat)
Is that a real country?

TOBY
Yes.

SAM
The Federated States of Micronesia?

TOBY
Yes.

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

TOBY
It’s a real country.

BONNIE
Toby.

TOBY
Yeah.

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

TOBY
(to SAM)
Come with me for this.

CUT TO:
17  EXT. PORTICO - DAY

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

   BARTLET
   Based on what?

   C.J.
   Sir--

   BARTLET
   Based on what is he making that claim?

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

   BARTLET
   We've been out there for three weeks.

They walk into--

18  INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

   CHARLIE
   Good morning, Mr. President.

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

   C.J.
   (to CHARLIE)
   Good morning.

   BARTLET
   We've been out there for three weeks.

They walk into--

19  INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

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

   C.J.
   Sir--

(CONTINUED)
BARTLET

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

C.J.

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

BARTLET

Well, how do you want to handle it?

C.J.

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

BARTLET

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

TOBY and SAM enter--

TOBY

Good morning, Mr. President.

SAM

Good morning, sir.

BARTLET

Steve Onorato's saying I want to legalize drugs.

SAM

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

C.J.

That's--

TOBY

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

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

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

SAM
I think we held our ground.

C.J.
I didn't say that, sir.

BARTLET
I'm sorry?

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

BARTLET
Yeah?

C.J.
Yes, sir.

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

TOBY and SAM smile...

BARTLET
(to C.J.)
Talk to the press.
(MORE)
BARTLET (cont'd)
Tell 'em every administration for 30 years has generated that memo.

C.J.
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
That's it.

C.J.
Thank you, Mr. President.

C.J. exits.

BARTLET
What do you got?

TOBY
The Federated States of Micronesia.

SAM
Toby says it's a country.

BARTLET
It is a country. You know where?

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

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

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

BARTLET
Parties.

TOBY
Sir--
BARTLET
I looked at the Federated States of Micronesia, I can’t fire our Ambassador.

TOBY
Why not?

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

TOBY
Sam’s got you covered.

How?

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

BARTLET
To what?

SAM
Ambassador to Paraguay.

BARTLET
What happens to the Ambassador to Paraguay?

SAM
You make him Ambassador to Bulgaria.

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

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

BARTLET
The Ambassador’s Ken Cochran, isn’t it?

TOBY
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
He’s having an affair with the daughter of the Bulgarian Prime Minister?
TOBY
Who the State Department is saying is upset.

BARTLET
I can imagine.

SAM
Do you know him, sir?

BARTLET
The Bulgarian Prime Minister?

SAM
Ambassador Cochran.

BARTLET
I know his wife.

SAM
Ouch.

BARTLET
I’ve gotta fire Ken Cochran?

TOBY
Yes, sir.

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

SAM
Why not?

BARTLET
I know his wife.

TOBY
Sir, we can create legitimate grounds for incompetence.

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

TOBY
Yes, sir.

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

(CONTINUED)
TOBY
Thank you, Mr. President.

SAM
Thank you, sir.

TOBY and SAM exit as--

BARTLET
(shouting)
Charlie!

CHARLIE
Yes, sir.

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

CHARLIE
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
Thank you.

CHARLIE
Is that Ken Cochran, Mr. President?

BARTLET
Yeah.

CHARLIE
Okay.

BARTLET
What?

CHARLIE
I'm sorry, sir?

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

CHARLIE
No, sir.

BARTLET
Okay.

(CONTINUED)
CHARLIE
Thank you, Mr. President.

CHARLIE exits as we:

CUT TO:

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

JOSH is arguing with JOEY LUCAS as KENNY interprets.

JOSH
They might put it on the table.

JOEY
They won't put it on the table.

JOSH
They might.

JOEY
They won't.

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

JOEY
They won't.

JOSH
If they do--

JOEY
They won't.

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

JOEY
Don't raise your voice to me.

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

JOEY
I guessed.

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

JOEY
Okay.

JOSH
Good.

JOEY
(signing to KENNY)
They won't.

JOSH
What'd she just say?

KENNY
They won't.

JOSH
Okay, look--

DONNA comes along--

DONNA
Josh.

JOSH
What.

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

JOSH
C.J. started her briefing?

DONNA
A half hour ago.

JOSH
The briefing doesn't start until eleven.

DONNA
Guess what?

JOSH
My watch sucks?

(CONTINUED)
DONNA
Yes, indeed.

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

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

JOSH
Oh, many have tried.

JOEY
See you later.

JOSH and DONNA start toward his office--

JOSH
Did Toby find a country?

DONNA
The Federated States of Micronesia.

JOSH
Is that a real country?

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

JOSH
When was I supposed to take you to Hawaii?

DONNA
Anytime, it’s something bosses do.

They walk into--

INT. JOSH’S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

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

JOSH
The Federated States of Micronesia?

(CONTINUED)
DONNA
They have some of the best scuba diving
in the world.

JOSH
Okay.

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

JOSH
Stop talking now.

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

C.J. (FROM TV)
...with the point being that the
mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines
applied to crack cocaine as opposed to
powder cocaine is fairly transparently
racist.

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

JOSH
Ssh.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - SAME TIME

C.J.
Hang on.

REPORTER #1 (KATIE)

C.J.--

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

(CONTINUED)
DANNY
Is the White House making a crusade out of defending the rights of drug users?

C.J.
Oh, please. Katie, you had a question.

KATIE
Do you have--

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

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

REPORTER #2
C.J., you're aware--

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

REPORTER #2
Yes.

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

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

DANNY
Hi.

C.J.
Hi.

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

C.J.
It was a ridiculous question.

DANNY
No, it wasn't.

DANNY follows C.J. out into--

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

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

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

C.J.
So you were just helping out.

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

C.J.
Let's find out.

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

C.J.
Hang on.

They walk into--

INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

C.J. closes the door.
C.J. They talk about it here, Danny, they talk about it here.

DANNY And they blame you.

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

DANNY But they blame you.

C.J. (beat) Yes.

DANNY And you think you've let them down.

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

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

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

DANNY Okay.

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

CAROL C.J.?

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

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

C.J. Check again.

C.J. heads out as we:

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

TITLE:

Tuesday Night
27 Hours Into Polling

26 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

MARGARET comes in.

MARGARET
Leo.

LEO
Yeah.

MARGARET
C.J.'s here.

LEO
Okay.

MARGARET
You wanna hear a joke?

LEO
Okay.

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

LEO
Why?

MARGARET
'Cause in France, one egg is an oueuff.
(pause)
Okay, C.J.'s here.

LEO
Okay.

MARGARET exits and C.J. comes in.

C.J.

Hi.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
Hey.

C.J.
The lid's on.

LEO
You told me.

C.J.
Hm?

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

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

LEO
Okay.

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

LEO
What?

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

LEO
Yeah.

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

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

C.J.
Yeah.

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

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

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

LEO
Don’t read too much--

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

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

C.J.
Okay.

LEO
All right, anything else?

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

C.J. exits as we:

INT. PHONE BANKS - NIGHT

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

JOSH
Theodore Roosevelt said--

JOEY
Josh--

JOSH
Lemme tell you what Theodore Roosevelt said.

JOEY
What do I care what Theodore Roosevelt said.

JOSH
’Cause the Republicans are gonna bring it up.

(CONTINUED)
JOEY
The Republicans aren’t gonna put it on the table.

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

KENNY
What kind of boarding house?

JOSH (to JOEY)
Polyglot. It means having knowledge of or speaking--

JOEY
I know what polyglot means.

JOSH
Then why’d you ask me?

JOEY
He asked you.

JOSH
My point is--

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

JOSH (pause)
Mandy’s wound a little tight during polling windows.

C.J.’s entering--

C.J.
What are you all doing here?

JOSH
Here’s another laid back member of our team.

C.J.
What are you all doing here?

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

C.J.
And what are you doing here?

JOSH
I'm kind of in charge of morale.

C.J.

Josh--

JOSH
The calls are going--

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

JOSH
(to the POLLSTERS)
Have I been distracting the female callers?

FEMALE POLLSTERS
No.

C.J.

Josh--

JOSH
Not even a little bit?

C.J.
This is what I'm--

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

C.J.
(beat)
Did Josh mention he's in charge of morale.

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
Yes I am, and as such, I'm going out
to get coffee for everyone, 'cause a few
hundred volts of caffeine is just what
the doctor ordered around here.
 (to JOEY)
And you should've been more impressed
that I was able to quote Theodore
Roosevelt.

JOEY
I was impressed you knew what polyglot
meant.

JOSH
760 SAT word, baby.

JOSH exits.
C.J. steps out onto--

EXT. TERRACE - CONTINUOUS

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

C.J.
Hi.

JOEY
Hi.

C.J.
I didn't see you there.

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

C.J.
(beat)
Good.

JOEY
(pause)
I think you're gonna do fine.

C.J.
Josh and Toby and Sam think the 42
percent job approval's gonna hold.
JOEY
For now, that's doing fine.

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

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

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

JOEY
You were in a downward spiral.

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

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

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

JOEY
That might be optimistic.

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

JOEY
So what are you worried about?

C.J.
I don't want to have to tell the President I was wrong.
JOEY
You think the President's gonna lose
faith in you 'cause you guessed wrong?

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

JOEY
--the spiraling numbers.

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

We HOLD on them a moment before we:

EXT. JANEANE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

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

SAM
You are both drunk and disorderly.

LAURIE
(seeing him)
Oh my God!

SAM
Happy graduation.

LAURIE
How did you--

JANEANE
Surprise.

LAURIE
Janeane--

(CONTINUED)
SAM
We worked in cahoots.

JANEANE
We did.

LAURIE
You planned this?
(to JANEANE)
This is why you dragged me back to your apartment?

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

LAURIE
Yes.

JANEANE
Then be quiet. I will be upstairs.

SAM
G’night, Janeane.

LAURIE
G’night, Janeane.
(to SAM)
What’d you get me?

SAM
A graduation gift.

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

SAM
(beat)
Open the box.

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

LAURIE
You bought me a pen?

SAM
It’s a good one. It writes upside down. You can use that pen in outer space.
LAURIE
Where's my present?

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

SAM
Happy graduation, counselor.

LAURIE
It's beautiful.

They hold each other...

LAURIE
Thank you.

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

They break apart....

LAURIE
Thank you.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. JANEANE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

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

CUT BACK TO:

31 EXT. JANEANE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

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

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

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

After a moment...

SAM
Did you know that car was there?

CUT TO:

INT. PHONE BANKS - NIGHT

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

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

JOEY
I know who Alexis--

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

A cell phone RINGS.

C.J.
I think that’s me.

JOSH
I’m talking about Alexis de Tocqueville.

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

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

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

C.J. hangs up the phone.

C.J.
Josh.

(CONTINUED)
JOSH

Yeah.

C.J.

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

JOSH

What happened.

C.J.

I don’t know yet.

C.J. and JOSH head out as we:

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN:

33 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

TITLE:

Wednesday Morning
36 Hours Into Polling

CUT TO:

33A INT. SAM'S OFFICE - DAY

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

TOBY
He's ready to see us.

SAM
What'd he say?

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

SAM grabs his tie as they head out into--

33B INT. BULLPEN/CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

SAM
I've drafted a letter of resignation.

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

SAM
You have every right to say that.

TOBY
Thank you for acknowledging that right.

SAM
Toby--

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

(CONTINUED)
LEO’s passing in the other direction--

SAM

Leo--

LEO
I’m talking to C.J. then I’m talking to you.

LEO’s gone.

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

They walk off as we:

CUT TO:

34 INT. C.J.’S OFFICE - DAY

C.J.’s on the phone at her desk.

C.J.
(into phone)
I’m gonna check, but I’m almost certain the President was referring to the Nasdaq composite and not the 30-year treasury yield.

LEO comes in the office--

C.J.
(into phone)
Not the Dow Industrials, the Nasdaq Composite.
(beat)
Okay, someone here’s gonna get back to you.

C.J. hangs up.

LEO
How do you not tell me until this morning?

C.J.
Leo--

LEO
How do you not call me last night?

(CONTINUED)
C.J.
We didn't know anything last night.

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

LEO

C.J.--

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

LEO
Who has it?

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

LEO
When is it running?

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

LEO
(pause)
He was giving her a graduation present?

C.J.
Yeah.

LEO
(pause)
Work the Post and the Times.

C.J.
Yeah.

LEO walks out and we:

CUT TO:

35 EXT. PORTICO - DAY

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

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BARTLET
You never paid this girl to have sex?

SAM
No, sir.

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

BARTLET
Well, that makes two of us.

They walk into--

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

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

BARTLET
Laurie’s the girl?

SAM
Yes, sir.

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)
BARTLET
Sam, you’re gonna spend the morning in the White House Counsel’s office finding out if you broke any laws.

SAM
Yes, sir.

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

TOBY/SAM
Laurie.

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

SAM
Yes, sir.

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

SAM
Yes, sir.

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

SAM
Yes, sir.

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

SAM
(beat)
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
That’s all.

SAM
Thank you, Mr. President.
SAM exits.

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

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

TOBY
Yes, sir.

CHARLIE enters--

CHARLIE
Mr. President?

BARTLET
We're ready to go?

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

BARTLET
Where are we putting Lobell and his people?

CHARLIE
In the Roosevelt Room.

BARTLET
(to TOBY)
He's gonna have a lot of staff with him.

TOBY
Yes, sir.

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

CHARLIE
Mr. President?

BARTLET
(to TOBY)
I'm gonna do this thing first, I'll see you across the hall.

TOBY
(exiting)
Thank you, Mr. President.

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

CHARLIE
Ken Cochran.

BARTLET
You did it again.

CHARLIE
I'm sorry, sir?

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

CHARLIE
No, sir.

BARTLET
I usually have a sense about these things.

CHARLIE
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
A finely honed sense.

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

BARTLET
Cochran's in the mural room?

CHARLIE
Yes, sir.

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

CHARLIE
Yes, sir.

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

BARTLET
Ted.

(continues)
MITCHEL
Mr. President.

They embrace.

BARTLET
You look good.

MITCHEL
I feel good.

BARTLET
How's Mary?

MITCHEL
She sends her love.

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

MITCHEL
Of course, sir.

BARTLET
I need you to hire a guy.

MITCHEL
Who, sir?

BARTLET
The former Ambassador to Bulgaria.

MITCHEL
Who's that, sir?

BARTLET
Ken Cochran.

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

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

MITCHEL
Why's he being fired?
BARTLET
Gross incompetence. I'll be right back.

BARTLET heads out as we:

CUT TO:

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

NANCY
Good morning, sir.

BARTLET
Good morning, Nancy.

NANCY
Senator Lobell's in the Roosevelt Room.

BARTLET
I'll be with him in a minute.

He walks into--

37 INT. THE MURAL ROOM - DAY

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

COCHRAN
Mr. President.

BARTLET
Ken.

COCHRAN
Good to see you, sir.

BARTLET
Thanks for flying back on such short notice.

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

BARTLET
Resign.

COCHRAN
(beat)
Excuse me?

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

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

COCHRAN
(pause)
Well, this is outrageous.
(pause)
(MORE)
COCHRAN (cont'd)

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

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

(pause)

Have we met?

CHARLIE

Sir?

COCHRAN

You look very familiar to me, have we met?

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

Where?

CHARLIE

I was a waiter at the Gramercy Club.

COCHRAN

Charlie.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

Charlie.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

Well, it's good to see you again.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

COCHRAN

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

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

(Continued)
COCHRAN

(pause)

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

CHARLIE

Did you?
COCHRAN
Oh, yeah.
  (beat)
Charlie.
  (beat)
This is me. I find exclusive clubs to be repugnant.

CHARLIE
I couldn’t help but notice it didn’t stop you from joining up in the first place.

COCHRAN
Now that’s outa line. That’s outa line, Charlie, and that shouldn’t have been said. And you’ve forgotten you’re addressing a U.S. Ambassador.

CHARLIE
I apologize, sir.

COCHRAN
I’m sorry to do this, but I’d like to speak to your supervisor.

CHARLIE
Well, I’m Personal Aide to the President, sir, so my supervisor’s a little busy right now looking for a back door to this place to shove you out of, but I’ll let him know you’d like to lodge a complaint.

BARTLET comes back in--

BARTLET
Thanks for waiting.

COCHRAN
Mr. President, clearly this young man who works for you has told you something of our past, and I’d like to say here and now--

BARTLET
It doesn’t have anything to do with--wait a second, the two of you have a past?

Sir--

CHARLIE

BARTLET
(to CHARLIE)
You mocked my finely honed sense.

(CONTINUED)
CHARLIE
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
You stood there in my face--
COCHRAN

Sir--

BARTLET
It's done, Ken. Ted Mitchel's gonna put you on the board of directors. And please remember that I have a lot of affection for your wife, and I'd hate to see her be made a fool of.

COCHRAN
(pause)
I think it would be appropriate at this time, Mr. President, to make a confession.

BARTLET
What's that.

COCHRAN
I never voted for you.

BARTLET
Well... thanks for trying, but here I am anyway. Gotta go.

BARTLET exits out into--

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

--where TOBY's waiting.

TOBY
All set?

BARTLET
Look at that, 14 staffers in there.

TOBY
You have quite a large staff, too, Mr. President.

BARTLET
Yeah, but I don't walk around with them, you know?

They walk into--

INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

--where SENATOR LOBELL and 14 STAFFERS are waiting for a meeting to start. Anyone sitting stands up.
BARTLET
Good morning.

LOBELL
Good morning, Mr. President. Please allow me to introduce Bob Simons, Peter Rathburn, Kathy--

BARTLET
Max, I don't need to know all the names.

LOBELL
All right, then.

BARTLET
You know what we're doing here, right?

LOBELL
We're gonna talk about soft money.

BARTLET
We're gonna do more than talk about it.

LOBELL
Okay.

BARTLET
We agree on nothing, Max.

LOBELL
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
Education, guns, drugs, school prayer, gays, defense spending, taxes, you name it, we disagree.

LOBELL
You know why?

BARTLET
'Cause I'm a lily-livered, bleeding heart, egghead communist.

LOBELL
Yes, sir, and I'm a gun-toting, redneck sonofabitch.

BARTLET
Yes, you are.

LOBELL
So we agree on that.

(CONTINUED)
BARTLET
We also agree on campaign finance.

LOBELL
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
So, Max?

LOBELL
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
Let's work together on campaign finance.

LOBELL
You don't have the votes in the House.

BARTLET
I don't need 'em. 1978, the F.E.C. voted a regulatory rule that opened the door to soft money. The F.E.C. can close it again with four of the six votes, we don't need a law.
LOBELL
And how are you gonna get the four votes?

BARTLET
Two seats opened up, I nominated Bacon and Calhoun.

LOBELL
That's two.

BARTLET
Barry Haskel was with us already, we took him outa the closet.

LOBELL
How are you gonna get a fourth seat to open up?

BARTLET
Toby's gonna take care of that right now. Can I count on your support to confirm my candidates?

LOBELL
And what do I get in exchange?

BARTLET
The thanks of a grateful President.

LOBELL
(pause)
Good answer, sir.

BARTLET
(to TOBY)
Go.

TOBY gets up as we:

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - DAY

ROSS KASSENBACH is sitting on the couch as TOBY walks in.

TOBY
Mr. Kassenbach?

KASSENBACH
Yes.

TOBY
I'm Toby Ziegler.

(Continued)
KASSENBACH
Nice to meet you.

TOBY
The President thinks you’ve done an excellent job serving on the Federal Election Commission and he’d like to extend his warmest congratulations.

KASSENBACH
On what?

TOBY
Being named the next Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

TITLE:

Wednesday Night
Polling Complete

INT. C.J.’S OFFICE - NIGHT

C.J. sits at her desk as JOSH steps in.

JOSH
It’s in.

C.J.
Yeah.

JOSH
You talked to them?

C.J.
They sealed it in an envelope and sent it by courier.

JOSH
You know Joey mentioned she was talking to you.

C.J.
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
She said you think you only have so many
times left you can walk into the Oval
Office and sing a song.

C.J.
(pause)
She said sing a song?

JOSH
No. That's what I thought she said,
'cause I've been trying to pick up some
sign and right now we have to do it by
letters of the alphabet. So I had Kenny
come over and interpret. It turns out
you said you think you only have so many
times left you can walk into the Oval
Office and say you're wrong.

C.J.
He hasn't been calling my number that
much, Josh.

JOSH
He did on this. These last three weeks?
The media strategy was yours.

C.J.
I know.

JOSH
And you should listen to Joey. Holding
at 42's a good number, you shouldn't
expect a five point bump.

C.J.
(pause)
I do expect it.

JOSH
Okay.
(pause)
He thinks of you like a daughter, C.J.

C.J.
That's not a good enough reason to keep
me here.

JOSH
(beat)
You'll come as soon as you get it?
CONTINUED: (2)

C.J.
Yeah.

JOSH
'Cause we're all waiting over there.

C.J.
Yeah.

JOSH walks out and we:

CUT TO:

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

BARTLET, LEO, TOBY, SAM, MANDY, CHARLIE, JOEY and some AIDES are standing or sitting around the room. Silent. Slightly awkward. After a moment...

LEO
(pause)
They're delivering it to her.

MANDY
Yeah.

LEO
(pause)
And she's gonna bring it right here?

MANDY
Yeah.

LEO
Okay.

Another long silence...

BARTLET
(to TOBY)
Kassenbach was okay?

TOBY
I'm sorry, sir?

BARTLET
Kassenbach was okay?

TOBY
He's gonna be an ambassador. He feels pretty good.

(Continued)
BARTLET
You told him about the weather?

TOBY
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
The scuba diving?

TOBY
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
Full diplomatic immunity.

TOBY
Yes, sir. Though there aren't really that many laws in Micronesia, so--

BARTLET
Sure.

JOSH enters--

JOSH
Good evening.

BARTLET
Good evening, Josh.

JOSH
I just saw C.J., she should be here with it any minute.

BARTLET
Okay.

Another silence...

JOSH
(pause)
Joey and I have been working on a counter-argument to Alexis de Tocqueville.

BARTLET
We're having a fight with Alexis de Tocqueville?

JOEY
Mr. President, please don't get him started.

(Continued)
JOSH
Joey, what say you to the position that with ethnic warfare spreading around the globe, particularly in Eastern Europe, it’s only a matter of time before it reaches our shores. And making English the official language of the United States will safeguard against the destruction of our national identity and help us avoid ethnic strife. What say you to that?

JOEY gives him a raspberry--

JOSH
(to BARTLET)
You see that? That’s what I’ve been dealing with for a week.

JOEY
Mr. President, 72 percent of Hispanics are strongly opposed to such a law. The Republicans’ll never put it on the table ‘cause they’ll lose the second largest ethnic block of voters in this country. But if you did need a counter-argument, I’d mention to Monsieur de Tocqueville over here that aside from it being bigoted and unconstitutional, it’s ludicrous to think that laws need to be created to protect the language of Shakespeare.

JOSH
(pause)
‘Kay, that’s all I was looking for, that one line. Took you four days.

JOEY gives him another raspberry--

JOSH
She did it again.

BARTLET
Yeah.

There’s another long silence...

BARTLET
What kind of briefcase did you get her, Sam?
SAM
Sir?

BARTLET
What kind of briefcase?

SAM
The Coach Beekman in British Tan with brass hardware.

BARTLET
That's nice.

SAM
Yes, sir.

BARTLET
Andare makes a nice model. Comes in black or brown. Hand stained. You can fit a laptop, notebooks--

TOBY
This conversation is surreal.

BARTLET
Trieste in Milan makes a nice briefcase.

C.J. enters carrying an envelope. Everyone stops and turns to her.

C.J.
Good evening, Mr. President.
(pause)
The full polling book is 400 pages long and it's still being put together. I have the top-sheet results.

LEO
What does it say?

C.J.
I was wrong.
(beat)
We went up nine points.

Everyone takes a moment... soaks it in... C.J. looks at LEO... LEO smiles back.

BARTLET
Okay.
(beat)
What's next?
A strategy meeting starts as we:

END OF SHOW

FADE TO BLACK