THE BREACH
PILOT EPISODE: "AUGUST 17, 1998"

Written by

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Based on the book, 'THE BREACH: INSIDE THE TRIAL OF WILLIAM "EISENHOWER ON CLINTON," by Peter Baker

Cutler Productions
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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

Principal Characters

HILLARY CLINTON (51) FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES
PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (52) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
PAUL BEGALA (LATE 30S) PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR
KEN STARR (52) INDEPENDENT COUNSEL
TOM DELAY (52) HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP
BOB LIVINGSTON (MID 50S) SPEAKER-DESIGNATE OF THE HOUSE
CHARLES 'CHUCK' RUFF (LATE 50S) WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL
ERSKINE BOWLES (EARLY 50S) WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF
MONICA LEWINSKY (25) FORMER WHITE HOUSE INTERN

Supporting Characters

MELANNE VERVEER (54) AIDE TO HILLARY CLINTON
MATT LAUER (41) TODAY SHOW HOST
JOE LIEBERMAN (50) DEMOCRAT SENATOR FROM CT
LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON (EARLY 50S) TELEVISION WRITER/PRODUCER
AND CLOSE FRIEND OF THE CLINTONS
ROBERT BITTMAN (36) PROSECUTOR FOR KEN STARR
SOLOMON WISENBERG (44) PROSECUTOR FOR KEN STARR
JACKIE BENNETT (41) PROSECUTOR FOR KEN STARR
JAMES CARVILLE (54) FORMER CONSULTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
MIKE MCCURRY (EARLY 40S) WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
RAHM EMANUEL (LATE 30S) SENIOR ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT
DAVID KENDALL (MID 50S) PERSONAL COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT
SAMUEL 'SANDY' BERGER (EARLY 50S) NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

LINDA TRIFF (LATE 40S) PENTAGON COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND WHO TAPE-RECORDED MONICA S. LEWINSKY

AL GORE (50) VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

MADELEINE ABLRIGHT (61) SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWT GINGRICH (MID 50S) SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

JOHN PODESTA (LATE 40S) WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS

MICKEY KANTOR (LATE 50S) FORMER COMMERCE SECRETARY AND ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT

JOHN KING (30s) CNN JOURNALIST

WOLF BLITZER (50) CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

JOE LOCKHART (LATE 30S) WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

BETTY CURRIE (60) PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON'S PERSONAL SECRETARY

NICOLE SELIGMAN (40s) PERSONAL ADVISER TO BILL CLINTON

DOUG SOSNIK '42) SENIOR ADVISER TO BILL CLINTON

HARRY THOMAS (LATE 50s) FILM/TELEVISION PRODUCER AND LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON'S HUSBAND

MICHAEL SCANLON (20) COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR TOM DELAY

MARK CORALLO (MID 20S) AIDE TO BOB LIVINGSTON
COLD OPEN

OVER BLACK WE SEE OPENING TITLES:

We hear TWO FEMALE VOICES speaking over the TELEPHONE. Soon we’ll find out these are the voices of former White House Intern, MONICA LEWINSKY (25) and former colleague/friend of Lewinsky’s, LINDA TRIPP (late 40s).

LINDA TRIPP
What are you gonna wear when you go
to - ummm - L.A.?

MONICA LEWINSKY
Well, I have my black uniform. I’ll wear that...

LINDA TRIPP
Okay.

MONICA LEWINSKY
And then I’m gonna wear the navy
dress I wore to the radio and that still has the um, on it, for
Thanksgiving.

We very slowly FA UP. Where we are is hard to tell. But little by little, as the camera comes more and more into focus, we begin to make out three figures sitting, listening to the same conversation we’re listening too.

LINDA TRIPP
Well, how - you’re what, you’re
gonna get it cleaned?

MONICA LEWINSKY
Yeah.

LINDA TRIPP
Oh, God.

MONICA LEWINSKY
Well, I mean, like I haven’t worn it for a year, you know?

LINDA TRIPP
Yeah.

MONICA LEWINSKY
It’s about time. Out with the old, you know?
LINDA TRIPP
Oh, that's too bad. (A pause.) This navy blue dress. Now all I would say to you is: I know how you feel today and I know why you feel the way you do today, but you have a very long life ahead of you. I would rather you had that in your possession if you need it years from now. That's all I'm gonna say.

MONICA LEWINSKY
You think that I can hold onto a dress for 10, 15 years with cum from--

LINDA TRIPP
Hey, listen. My cousin is a genetic whatchamacalit...

MONICA LEWINSKY
Uh...

LINDA TRIPP
...and during U.J. "In so... I guess... I think the "Ha an... the "I to."

MONICA LEWINSKY
Huh?

LINDA TRIPP
He said that on a rape victim now if she has preserved a pinprick size of crusted semen, 10 years from that time, if she takes a wet Q-Tip and blobs it on there, they can match the DNA with absolutely with certainty.

MONICA LEWINSKY
So why can't I scratch that off and put it in a plastic bag?

LINDA TRIPP
You can't scratch it off. You would have to use a Q-Tip. And I feel like this is what I would tell my own daughter.

MONICA LEWINSKY
Well, I'll think about it.
SUDDENLY one of the figures moves toward something and presses a button, snapping a TAPE RECORDER into perfect view.

We now see we are in...

INT. KEN STARR’S OFFICE – DAY

Title: January, 12, 1998

LINDA TRIPP sits in the office of Independent Counsel, KEN STARR (52), who has just pressed STOP on the tape recorder.

Seated with Starr is one of his Prosecutors, JACKIE BENNETT (41), who turns to Tripp.

JACKIE BENNETT
How many hours of *-es, pi one 2.11;
c’d you recor’ Ms. ‘rripp?

LINDA TRIPP
Ol, josł. I don’t know. Twenty-odd?

Starr lets this hang in the air, rises from behind his desk and moves to hover above Tripp. He stares intently at her for a beat. Then:

KEN STARR
And you recorded these conversations with your friend, Ms. Lewinsky, why?

LINDA TRIPP
Patriotic duty.

KEN STARR
Okay.

LINDA TRIPP
But… also, out of self-defense. Monica told me she had told President Clinton that I was the only one who knew about their affair. So that could make me a target. You know, if I wasn’t willing to lie to protect the two of them.
KEN STARR

I see.

(beat)
You realize that recording someone like this, in the state of Maryland, where you claim you made these, without the other party’s permission, is a crime and you could face charges.

Tripp nods, yes.

JACKIE BENNETT
How do you know Ms. Lewinsky again?

LINDA TRIPP
We worked together in the Pentagon—

JACKIE BENNETT
—public affairs office... right, right.

Starr takes a beat as he thinks through his next move.

KEN STARR
So... where I think I can from prosecution, I surreptitiously recording these phone calls of Ms. Lewinsky. And protection from retaliation by the President’s administration. What do you think of that?

Tripp nods: that sounds great.

KEN STARR (CONT’D)
But... you’re going to have to cooperate with us, with the FBI. Because we need these kinds of recordings of Ms. Lewinsky, but we need the legal versions.

LINDA TRIPP
So you want me to wear a wire, is that what you’re getting at?

KEN STARR
Exactly.

LINDA TRIPP
Okay. And what do you need her... or, rather, what, ideally, would she be talking about.
KEN STARR
Well, you say that she’s planning to file an affidavit in the Paula Jones case...

LINDA TRIPP
She already filed it and it’s in the mail right now, on the way to Arkansas.

Starr considers this bit of news.

KEN STARR
And in that affidavit, you say that Miss Lewinsky denies that she has had any sort of a sexual relationship with the President.

LINDA TRIPP
Okay so get her talking about that?

KEN STARR
And whatever else she has to say about her relationship with the President, you tell her that she did not tell the whole truth under oath. That’s a pretty serious allegation. Let’s hear her talk about that. And if she’s encouraging you to lie, to file a false affidavit, too, as you told us she was, it would be good to hear her talk to that, as well.

Tripp hesitates, but then nods, yes, she’ll do it.

KEN STARR (CONT’D)
Thank you, Ms. Tripp. Mr. Bennett here will be in touch with you about where, when, next steps. Okay?

She rises to leave.

LINDA TRIPP
Thank you very much, Mr. Starr. I look forward to hearing from you.

As soon as she’s gone, Starr begins writing feverishly in his notebook, rattling off a list as he speaks it to Bennett.

KEN STARR
The President’s Paula Jones deposition is in what?
JACKIE BENNETT

Two weeks.

Starr contemplates.

KEN STARR
Okay, let’s get an appointment with the Attorney General as soon as possible and request a jurisdictional grant to broaden out our investigation. Look at the possibility of subornation of perjury and obstruction of justice.

JACKIE BENNETT
Okay.

KEN STARR
Assuming Reno grants us that, we’ll bring in the FBI to wire her up. Mm-hm. Let’s use the Ritz-Carlton. Get a couple rooms on the 10th floor. Ms. Tripp will invite Lewinsky over to the room.

JACKIE BENNETT
How about the hotel? Little less obvious. More public.

Starr snaps his fingers at Bennett, yes.

JACKIE BENNETT (CONT’D)
What about the evidence Ms. Tripp claims she has that links the White House to Travelgate, Filegate...

KEN STARR
That ship has sailed. We’ll get him on obstruction of justice and perjury.

JACKIE BENNETT
What if the White House finds out we now know about Lewinsky’s false affidavit, even as it’s en route to the Arkansas district court? Clinton will plead the fifth at his Jones deposition... or just postpone it.

KEN STARR
What affidavit? We don’t have proof Lewinsky has done anything yet, now do we?
JACKIE BENNETT
If we did, we'd be obliged to--

But Starr cuts him off.

KEN STARR
Right now it's just she-said-she-said.

Bennett nods, fully understanding. Starr tries to conceal a tight, knowing smile.

TITLE CARD: THE BREACH

A title sequence shows images covering twenty years of Bill and Hillary Clinton’s rise to power and the opponents who tried to take them down. The audio in the sequence ends with this clip from President Clinton’s Second Inaugural Address from January 1997:

PRESIDENT CLINTON
The American people returned to office a President of one party and a Congress of another. Surely, he did not do this to defend the politics of the era... and to admit our failure. They plainly did it. No, they must call on us instead to be repairers of the breach... and to move on with America's mission.

CUT TO BLACK.

END COLD OPEN
ACT ONE

EXT. WASHINGTON, DC - EARLY MORNING

An aerial shot moving over the NATIONAL MALL and WASHINGTON MONUMENT toward the WHITE HOUSE.

Title: August, 17, 1998

Title: 6:30 AM

Off camera, we hear a NEWS ANCHOR talking about how later today, PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON will become the first U.S. President to testify as the subject of a grand jury investigation.

We push into:

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PRESIDENT CLINTON’S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We find PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (2) jotting down on a YELLOW LEGAL PAD as he’s in the middle of getting dressed.

CNN is on t.e TV in the b... a... he PUNDITS are discussing the implications. President Clinton admits during his Grand Jury testimony today that he was, indeed, lying under oath during the Jones deposition earlier in the year.

PUNDIT #1 (ON TV)
When he was asked in January, seven months ago, during his Paula Jones testimony if he had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky, he said no. That’s it. That’s all you need to understand to appreciate the magnitude of what we think he’s going to say today.

PUNDIT #2
Because if he admits today he did have an affair or sexual relations or whatever he decides to call it, that’s called perjury, lying under oath.

PUNDIT #3
Look, if you give me 40 million tax payer dollars and three years, I’m sure I can unearth something on each one of you...

(MORE)
PUNDIT #3 (CONT'D)
something about your personal,
private life that you don't want
the public to know about... that
you're going to be forced to lie
about to protect-

PUNDIT #2
He's the President of the United
States, though. He's not you or me.

The CNN ANCHOR now has United States Senator JOE LIEBERMAN
(50) on the phone. On the TV screen we see a still image of
the prominent democrat.

This gets the President's attention, who stops jotting notes
down on his legal pad to listen to his fellow Democrat:

JOE LIEBERMAN (V.O.)
The President has assured me
personally, several times actually,
that he's been telling the truth
since this circus began in January.
He's an upstanding man of great
character, so we must take his word. At least take his word.

Off the record, frustrated and determined.

INT. OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL - EARLY MORNING

Title: 7:00 AM

Elsewhere in D.C., Ken Starr and his team of prosecutors,
ROBERT BITTMAN (36), SOLOMON WISENBERG (44) and Jackie
Bennett are reviewing their playbook.

KEN STARR
At the end of the day, we have her
blue dress with his DNA all over
it.

SOLOMON WISENBERG
Wait she saved a dress with his...?

KEN STARR
Yep, that's our trump card. And
they know it. The truth is, we
shouldn't even need the full four
hours they've allotted us.

JACKIE BENNETT
So what about the love tie?
He holds up a photo of President Clinton dated AUGUST 6, 1998, captioned: Zegna necktie, gift from Monica Lewinsky.

KEN STARR
(off photo)
I don't know. What's he going to say? 'Yes, I was sending signals to Ms. Lewinsky on television by wearing a Zegna necktie she'd given me on the day she appeared in front of the grand jury?'

ROBERT BITTMAN
At least let's hear him refute it.

Starr considers this as a PHONE CALL comes in. He picks up.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

On the other end of the line, in the White House MAP ROOM, we find a TECHNICIAN overseeing the setup of closed-circuit mics and cameras.

TECHNICAN
Mr. Starr, we've secured the room.
for the Map Room at the White House and the Grand Jury room.

KEN STARR (O.C.)
Very good. I'm headed over there shortly.

EXT. SKY - EARLY MORNING

An establishing shot of an AIRPLANE winging its way through the morning sky.

INT. AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

Inside the plane, we find longtime Clinton ally and strategist JAMES CARVILLE (54), rubbing his temples, reading over the NY TIMES front page: ADVISER SAYS CLINTON MAY ADMIT RELATIONSHIP.

He opens a small bottle of bourbon and pours some into his COFFEE.

INT. TOM DELAY'S NORTHERN VIRGINIA HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

TITLE: 8:00 AM
Majority Whip TOM DELAY (52) is in the middle of breakfast, talking on the phone. FOX NEWS is on the b.g. discussing Lewinsky/Jones and Clinton.

**TOM DELAY**
(into phone)
He’ll never confess. He’ll never tell the truth. He lied about Gennifer Flowers, about the draft, about smoking pot. He lied when he gave that deposition and he’s gonna lie again today. I don’t know how he’s gonna do it under oath but he’s gonna do it. You mark my words. And then we got him.

**INT. BOB LIVINGSTON’S OFFICE – CONTINUOUS**

Standing behind his desk, looking out the window of his office, we find Republican Congressman BOB LIVINGSTON (mid-50s), talking on the phone.

**BOB LIVINGSTON**
(into phone)

**INTERCU. AS VELDEI**

**TOM DELAY**
Better fucking believe it. We’ll go after him, guns blazing.

**BOB LIVINGSTON**
Tom, we’re talking about the President of the United States, for God’s sake. Is this just bravado on your part? You want to risk breaking the government over this? It may never work again. I mean, remember how badly Newt came out looking after the shutdown. And that was just 27 days. Impeachment proceedings... well, that could be months, if not a year.

**TOM DELAY**
Gingrich recovered fine, Bob. And lying under oath, well, ask yourself this: what side of the constitution you on? Now, I know what side I’m on. And I know what side my constituents are on, government shutdown be damned.
DeLay hangs up the phone and turns up the volume via remote control on the TV: The PUNDITS are discussing Ken Starr’s investigations over the years: Whitewater, Troopergate...

They cut to some B-ROLL of President Clinton.

    TOM DELAY (CONT’D)
    (to the TV)
    Last time you piss on my leg and
tell me it’s raining.

He abruptly turns off the TV and forcefully tosses the remote control down on the counter.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - MORNING

Title: 8:30 AM

A TOWN CAR pulls up and a White House JUNIOR STAFFER (20s) comes over with a WHEELCHAIR. He helps White House Counsel CHARLES ‘CHUCK’ RUFF (late 50s), out of the car and into the chair.

    JUNIOR STAFFER (CONT’D)
    Good morning, Mr. Ruff.

Ruff ignores the affable as he goes through the arduous chore of getting into the wheelchair.

    JUNIOR STAFFER (CONT’D)
    Big day, sir, eh?

It’s not that he doesn’t hear the kid, he just couldn’t give a fig.

    JUNIOR STAFFER (CONT’D)
    (Obsequious)
    Nicely done with Mickey Kantor yesterday.
    (a beat as he watches Ruff struggle)
    I mean, if he’d been successful in persuading President Clinton to go on TV before he testifies...

Ruff stares the kid down, who finally shuts up and begins to push Ruff in the wheelchair toward the White House.

    CHARLES RUFF
    (throwing the kid a bone)
    I don’t care how long the President has been friends with Kantor.
    Trying to preempt Ken Starr is just plain suicide.
JUNIOR STAFFER
That’s for sure.
(beat of awkward silence)
Mr. Ruff, I’ve been meaning to ask your opinion... all these months... what with your close relationship to the President and all...

CHARLES RUFF
Yes?

JUNIOR STAFFER
Do you think the President told the truth about, y’know, about his relationship with Miss Lewinsky?

CHARLES RUFF
(incredulous)
What?

JUNIOR STAFFER
Well, y’know--

CHARLES RUFF
(interrupting)
I mean listen he-- I’ll tell you the President for a year and have been his White House Counsel for a year and a half and he’s personally assured me he’s been telling the truth. There’s no other answer to that question worth entertaining.

JUNIOR STAFFER
Yes, sir.

LINDA BLODWORTH-THOMASON
(pre-lap)
Paul, it’s Linda.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PAUL BEGALA'S OFFICE - DAY

Longtime-strategist and counselor to the President, PAUL BEGALA (late 30s) is on the phone, a pad of notes in front of him.

PAUL BEGALA
Hey, Linda.
INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

In the back of a Lincoln Town Car, LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON (early 50s), friend of the Clinton’s, chats on her CAR-PHONE.

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON
Listen, I have some news you need to hear.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

PAUL BEGALA
Oh, shit, I don’t like the sound of that. Bad enough we’ve got this Grand Jury testimony...

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON
The other day, Bill confessed to Hillary. He’s been lying.

A long pause.

PAUL BEGALA
Are you kidding? How’d you know?

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON
He asked me to tell you to tell her. I told him no sir, you’ve got to tell her yourself.

Another pause.

PAUL BEGALA
I’m... I’m speechless. I mean...

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON
It gets worse. The FBI confirmed they have his DNA on some clothing Lewinsky has saved.

PAUL BEGALA
So what? Anyone can get some hair on a shirt, for Christ’s sake.

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON
Actually it’s from when they were together--

PAUL BEGALA
You’ve got to be... I mean, she saved a dress with his...?

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON
Not as dumb as it sounds.
PAUL BEGALA
How the fuck did the FBI get it?

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON
Last month, when Lewinsky signed
her immunity deal. Part of the deal
was she’d turn over the dress.

Begala is speechless.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: HILLARY’S DRESSING ROOM – CONTINUOUS

We find First Lady HILLARY CLINTON (51) in her dressing room,
staring into her vanity mirror, her face full of emotion as
she takes a deep breath and then starts to put her makeup on.

In the b.g., the TV is on. Pundits are discussing President
Clinton’s Paula Jones deposition earlier in the year where he
potentially lied under oath.

We watch the First Lady now, reacting as her husband, the day
of the Paula Jones testimony, wags his finger on national TV:

PR’sideNt ClNt On TV
I won’t say or; th. ng to the
A ex: le. peop-le... I want you to
list-en to me. I’m going to say this
again. I did not have sexual
relations with that woman, Miss
Lewinsky. I never told anybody to
lie, not a single time, never.
These allegations are false. And I
need to go back to work for the
American people.

The First Lady shuts off the TV, anger on her face.

A beat later, her husband wanders in, yellow pad in hand.
There’s tension here.

HILLARY CLINTON
Have you decided what you’re going
to say?

The President looks relieved that she’s even speaking to him.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I don’t know... I don’t even know
if I’ll feel like talking to anyone
afterward, let alone the entire
world.

The First Lady nods, keeping her emotions in check.
INT. WHITE HOUSE: HALLWAY - MORNING

White House Press Secretary MIKE MCCURRY (48) walks with Political Director DOUG SOSNIK (42), who is holding out a prepared statement for McCurry to read.

MIKE MCCURRY
(re: the piece of paper)
No one in the press will be asking questions about the Workforce Investment Act, I guarantee you.

DOUG SOSNIK
Well, just in case--

MIKE MCCURRY
Doug. Trust me. These guys have one thing on their minds and one thing only. And she’s called Monica Lewinsky.

DOUG SOSNIK
Well I guess that’s not a bad thing, since everyone in the White House is focused on the matter as well.

MIKE MCCURRY
(iso to)
You mean everyone except Berger and his gang.

DOUG SOSNIK
(sotto)
They’ve been in the Situation Room since four-thirty this morning.

MIKE MCCURRY
(sotto)
Jesus. Well, let’s hope for the President’s sake they don’t ask him to join them. He’s got enough on his plate today.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PRESS ROOM - MORNING

Dozens of REPORTERS try to get the attention of McCurry, who is fielding questions at the podium.
MIKE MCCURRY
After the President meets with his legal team, he'll be heading over to the Map Room where the Office of Independent Council, led by Ken Starr, will be questioning him in front of a Grand Jury, who will watch the President's testimony via video link.

FEMALE REPORTER #1
Will that video feed be broadcast on C-Span?

MIKE MCCURRY
Of course not.

FEMALE REPORTER #1
How much time is allotted for the questioning?

MIKE MCCURRY
Four hours, but they'll be stopping periodically for breaks. So it'll occupy him the entire day. When the testimony is over, we'll decide what time it'll be if the President is going to address the nation this evening.

FEMALE REPORTER #2
If the President does make a speech tonight, will the First Lady and Chelsea be with him?

MIKE MCCURRY
I haven't heard any plans to that effect.

MALE REPORTER
Will they be sitting there if he's talking about oral sex, for instance? That would be embarrassing for them.

MIKE MCCURRY
I think it's embarrassing to hear the question posed here.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PAUL BEGALA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Paul Begala is nose-down in his computer, working frantically. As he types, he's listening to someone rattling on through the telephone, which he has wedged between his ear and shoulder.
PAUL BEGALA
Listen, I agree completely. First he lies to all of us, basically has us perpetuate the lie for him, and now we’ve got to come up with a draft of what he’s going to say to cover his ass tonight? I mean give me a break, y’know?

Begala half-listens again to the voice on the other line as he continues to type, stopping only to look over notes he’s made in the margins of a handwritten draft.

PAUL BEGALA (CONT’D)
Well, for starters he should take full responsibility for his actions... I mean, I don’t know what Podesta or Rahm are drafting up, but if you ask me, that’s what he’s got to say.

(beat)
You know what, let me call you back. Rahm’s calling on the other line... I’ll call you back.

He hangs up and answers the other line, talking Senior Adviser to the President, AM MANUEL (30s) on SPEAKER.

RAHM EMANUEL
(not happy)
Hey Paul, it’s me.

PAUL BEGALA
I’m going to assume by the dulcet tone of your voice that the uplifting news of the day has made it’s way over to your office by a carrier pigeon who’s just shit it all over your desk?

RAHM EMANUEL
He’s unbelievable, this guy.

PAUL BEGALA
Assume he’s got you working up a draft for tonight’s address?

RAHM EMANUEL
Yeah.

PAUL BEGALA
Well we can dog-pile later, but I think it’s got to be a serious mea-culpa.
RAHM EMANUEL
To some degree, but maybe also take the opportunity to strike back at Starr.

PAUL BEGALA
Absolutely the wrong approach. Every sentence has to come off as responsible, accountable, apologetic.

RAHM EMANUEL
Yeah, well that’s not the direction I was given.

PAUL BEGALA
So what, you don’t agree? Come on Rahm! I mean this is not the venue for self-pity or personal attacks on the Independent Council.

RAHM EMANUEL
Can we agree to disagree?

PAUL BEGALA
‘No,’ we absolutely can’t!

RAHM EMANUEL
S’aa..inc of Starr...
You see the Woodward piece in yesterday’s Post with those quotes from Kendall about him?

Begala has the newspaper open to the story on his desk. He looks it over.

PAUL BEGALA
Yeah.

RAHM EMANUEL
Can you believe that shit?

PAUL BEGALA
The day Kendall calls Starr a...

He picks up the newspaper and looks for the quote...

PAUL BEGALA (CONT’D)
(reading)
“righteous man” is the day the reflecting pool freezes over.

They chuckle.
RAHM EMANUEL
Now that we can agree on.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: ERSKINE BOWLES’ OFFICE – MORNING

TITLE: 9:00 AM

Personal Counsel to the President, DAVID KENDALL (mid 50s) sits with President Clinton. Also present is White House Chief of Staff ERSKINE BOWLES (early 50s) along with other members of the LEGAL TEAM.

ERSKINE BOWLES
Well, the problem with that is: Starr is insisting on videotaping your whole testimony.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
(pissed)
Oh, come on!

DAVID KENDALL
So we have to operate under the assumption that the tape will eventually be leaked

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Of course it will be leaked! Come on, now. A live feed is one thing, but recording it should not be allowed. I mean this guy... for four years he’s been trying to dig up something: from Whitewater, you know, to Vincent’s suicide and everything in between. He’s completely overstepped and, look, this is all a distraction, with the potential to shut congress down from carrying out their mandates and we’re just sitting here letting him dictate the rules? He’s hijacking the federal government.

(yelling)
No goddamn recording!

That hangs in the air for a moment as the President stands and paces. Kendall gets up and put his hand on the President’s shoulder, trying to calm him.

DAVID KENDALL
They are legally within bounds, here. If one of the Grand Jurors is absent, the videotape is necessary.
PRESIDENT CLINTON
And what if someone intercepts the video link to the Grand Jury room? Then what?

DAVID KENDALL
We’ve got encryption devices at both ends. The transmission is scrambled here at the White House, unscrambled at the courthouse and is virtually impossible to tap.

ERSKINE BOWLES
It would require a concerted effort of a number of scientists for a long period of time with a very smart computer, with some knowledge of the content of the signals to begin with, to be able to decode it and display it.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
(resigned)
I’ll tell you one thin’: Andr’.. Johnson never had ‘a al with hi’.

A beat as Pres de’.. Clinton and David Kendall sit back down.

DAVID KENDALL
Any clip of you saying anything explicit, like ‘she performed oral sex on me,’ will probably get out there one day. Maybe not tomorrow or the next week, but knowing the Independent Council’s inclination toward the salacious, you can count on this testimony getting out there eventually.

ERSKINE BOWLES
And once it’s out there, you know it’s going to be played on TV again and again, until it becomes so instilled in people’s minds that it will not only humiliate you, but become the single moment defining you in the history books.

Clinton looks despondent.

DAVID KENDALL
But we have a strategy.
One of the members of the LEGAL TEAM moves into action, distributing photocopies around the room. President Clinton puts his reading glasses on and glances over the pages.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON**
What’s this?

**DAVID KENDALL**
These are a series of statements we’ve prepared with very carefully chosen language that will make your confession as... well... as dignified as possible.

The President continues to look over the pages. Some parts are highlighted in bold.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON**
*(reading, sotto, to himself)*
Inappropriate intimate contact...

**DAVID KENDALL**
That’s what you’ll refer to c:...
sex as.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON**
And improper sexual banter...?

He looks up at Kendall.

**DAVID KENDALL**
Phone sex.

President Clinton nods his understanding and approval.

**ERSKINE BOWLES**
These prepared statements, which you can use and read from directly, are intentionally long.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON**
To chew up the clock.

Bowles nods.

**ERSKINE BOWLES**
There’s no judge, so you can read these as slowly as you’d like. Remember: they get four hours and not a second more.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON**
Well I like the sound of that.
Suddenly they are interrupted by National Security Adviser SANDY BERGER (early 50s).

SANDY BERGER
Mr. President, excuse me, but we need you immediately in the situation room. It's pressing.

ERSKINE BOWLES
What could be more pressing than this, for Christ's sake?!

EXT. STREET - DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, D.C. - LATE MORNING

We follow THREE TOWN CARS as they roll, motorcade-style, toward the White House.

INT. TOWN CAR - CONTINUOUS

In the backseat of one of the cars we find Starr and Jackie Bennett. They stare, agog, at the enormous CROWD OF PROTESTORS camped out along the paths le···ing to the White House.

Some hold signs that read: "Mr. A-h hill," "God Bless Starr," "Per·for·m·a·ble offense," "MONICA SUCKS!" and "Ja·sh·on·a·ble·able offense," "MONICA SUCKS!" and "Ja·l·a·b·i·e·able offense," "MONICA SUCKS!" A smaller minority of anti-protestors hold others like: "Starr's zealous indiscretion, like Joe McCarthy's tyranny, is political terrorism."

JACKIE BENNETT
I hope I get to see my name on a protest sign one day.

As the car gets closer to the White House, we see a crew of television correspondents lined up inside the gates.

Starr's motorcade comes in through the gates and dozens of REPORTERS and CAMERAMEN swarm around, shouting questions at Starr.

CUT TO BLACK:

END ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SITUATION ROOM - LATE MORNING

President Clinton follows Sandy Berger into the Situation Room, where the NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF, Vice President AL GORE and Secretary of State MADELEINE ALBRIGHT are already waiting.

SANDY BERGER
Mr. President... sir...

But the President is suddenly preoccupied jotting down a thought he’s having on his YELLOW LEGAL PAD.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
One moment, Sandy.

He rips the page off, folds it, and grabs an AIDE.

PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT’D)
(to the Aide)
Make sure Mickey Kanto gets ‘em, ASAP.

AIDE
Y’s, sir.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
(to Sandy and the room)
Okay, what do we have?

SANDY BERGER
We are set to counter-strike.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
So we’re talking about the Al Qaeda bombings?

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT
That’s right, against our embassies 10 days ago in Tanzania and Kenya.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
What are the targets?

SANDY BERGER
A training camp in Afghanistan and a chemical-weapons facility in Sudan, sir. The most valuable targets we’ve had in our marks so far.
He points to a large PROJECTION SCREEN on the wall where two maps outline the proposed targets.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
How soon?

SANDY BERGER
Once you give the go-ahead, 24 hours give or take... so we can assure minimal civilian casualties.

We slowly push in on President Clinton, weighing all this despite the stress of the day.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I'm going to need more time to decide.

SANDY BERGER
With every passing day, Al-Qaeda grows in strength and numbers.

MADELINE ALBRIGHT
We've got to stop bin Laden things get out of control. A targeted training camp is a threat for us.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
(hedging)
Just think this through a second though... if I say bomb 'em, you know what they'll accuse me of.

AL GORE
Let's not forget how much they've already accused you of not going harder against bin Laden.

SANDY BERGER
Mr. President... I understand there's a lot going on out there today... but this deserves our full attention.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
It's not that, Sandy. If we drop bombs, they'll be all up on their high horses that I did it to divert attention from all this testimony nonsense. That's the issue here.

(beat)
Are we one hundred percent sure of these targets?
MADELINE ALBRIGHT

Yes.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
And we’re sure Al-Qaeda was behind those embassy bombings and not the Egyptian Jihad like in ’95?

SANDY BERGER
We’re sure. Bin Laden’s group is the new Egyptian Islamic Jihad.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Jesus Christ, every time you turn around there’s a new one.

AL GORE
Bin Laden has better recruiting teams in place. He’s got friends in high places.

MADELINE ALBRIGHT
And money pouring in from all over.

AL GORE
To ay ncthin of h’; om funis, buircll ng the Jr.tion, too.

SANDY BERGER
Which is why we’ve got to act now. You can’t let months go by before a retaliation strike. He’ll be that much stronger.

A beat as the President lets that hang in the air.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Should we retaliate now? Of course we should.

(pointing out toward the Map Room)
But they’re making it damn-near impossible for us to do our jobs. They’ll twist this to their advantage and the media will lap it up. They’ll have a fucking field day... You know they will.

And there they sit, in quite a pickle.

INT. TOM DELAY/NEWT GINGRICH OFFICES - LATE MORNING

Title: 11:00 AM
Tom DeLay and NEWT GINGRICH (mid-50s) are in their respective offices chatting on the phone.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

TOM DELAY
He'll never confess.

NEWT GINGRICH
But he has to! They have evidence... a dress.

TOM DELAY
She saved a dress with his...?

NEWT GINGRICH
Yep.

TOM DELAY
Jesus...That'd be 20 seats right there. You'll be on your way to a permanent majority.

A beat as Gingrich takes this in

NEWT GINGRICH
(to himself)
A e ve really talkin' about impeachin' the President of the United States?
(to DeLay)
But if the President has subverted the system, which he was sworn to uphold, any President in this situation is susceptible to impeachment. So unless he resigns, what choice do we have?

TOM DELAY
If he's violating his constitutional duty, we have no choice at all, Newt. No choice at all.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SOLARIUM - LATE MORNING

The First Lady is by herself, pensive. Her hair is pulled back, her eyes ringed red and puffy.

She begins to get lost in a memory...
INT. NBC TODAY SHOW STAGE – MORNING

The First Lady sits on the brightly-lit stage, exuding confidence with a ring of pearls around her neck, her hair majestically coiffed. She’s seated across from TODAY SHOW host MATT LAUER (41) who is mid-question as we come in.

MATT LAUER
Mrs. Clinton, what is the exact nature of the relationship between your husband and Monica Lewinsky? Has he described the nature of that relationship to you?

The First Lady nods along, like she’s eager to set the record straight.

HILLARY CLINTON
Well, we’ve talked at great length, Matt. And the president has denied these allegations on all counts, unequivocally. Bill and I have been accused of everything, including murder, by some of the very same people who are beh-- you’re all gatherings. Think what we’ve been through for the last year, and think of all the things we’ve been accused of. This started out as an investigation of a failed land deal. We get a politically motivated prosecutor--

MATT LAUER
You’re referring to Ken Starr so let’s use his name, because he’s the independent counsel.

HILLARY CLINTON
Yes, Matt, but this independent counsel is allied with the right-wing opponents of my husband, and has literally spent four years looking at every telephone...

MATT LAUER
And 30 million dollars.

HILLARY CLINTON
More than that now. But looking at every telephone call we’ve made, every check we’ve ever written, (MORE)
HILLARY CLINTON (CONT'D)
scratching for dirt, intimidating
witnesses, doing everything
possible to try to make some kind
of accusation against my husband.

MATT LAUER
Mr. Starr has, personally?

HILLARY CLINTON
Well it's not just one person. It's
an entire operation. This is the
great story here for anybody
willing to find it and write about
it and explain it is this vast
right-wing conspiracy that has been
conspiring against my husband since
the day he announced for president.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SOLARIUM - BACK TO PRESENT

The First Lady is snapped out of her memory as James Carville
comes dashing into the room. He throws his bag down and his
arms around Hillary.

JAMES CARVILLE
W: s cap 'll e
W: ng to t.rough this.

HILLARY CLINTON
I'm sorry to have brought you back.
I know you were-

JAMES CARVILLE
Are you kidding? Come on.

HILLARY CLINTON
You understand how hard this is.

He nods.

HILLARY CLINTON (CONT'D)
I mean, he really sold the story.
And what did I do? I took those
lies and amplified them. I'm such a
fool.

James comforts her. Let's her settle down.

JAMES CARVILLE
I have some information you might
be interested in.

She looks at him, questioning.
JAMES CARVILLE (CONT'D)
I thought I'd tell you first, before bringing this up to anyone else. Because, well...

HILLARY CLINTON
Okay. What?

JAMES CARVILLE
Our friend down in Arkansas gave me a call the other day.

HILLARY CLINTON
And?

JAMES CARVILLE
He says that he can prove Ken Starr knew Lewinsky was going to file an affidavit, stating that she and the President never... y'know...

HILLARY CLINTON
The affidavit for the Paula Jones case? Who told Starr about it?

JAMES CARVILLE
L'n a "r pp. Par: of he: immunity d: al.

HILLARY CLINTON
Okay. But so what if Starr knew?

JAMES CARVILLE
He'd be legally bound to disclose that to the Attorney General. So his hands aren't clean in this either.

HILLARY CLINTON
(glib)
Were they ever?
JAMES CARVILLE
Imagine if he tells Reno, "Uh, Ms. Attorney General, before I ask to broaden out this investigation, you should know that I've met with Linda Tripp who says Monica Lewinsky has just mailed what is likely a false affidavit to Arkansas." Janet Reno, at that point, certainly lets our team know, doesn't let Starr broaden out his investigation right away... which means the President never perjures himself when he testifies... because, well, the story is out there. He postpones the deposition. Doesn't say anything. Certainly nothing they can use against him.

The First Lady takes this in.

HILLARY CLINTON
So Starr set a trap, knowing she'll would lie under oath.

Carville: no's.

JAMES CARVILLE
Manufactured the crime.

A long beat.

HILLARY CLINTON
I don't know James. I'm... I'm just... I'm not there.

JAMES CARVILLE
I understand. It doesn't take the pain away. But they should be launching an investigation into the conduct of Starr's office. The President shouldn't be above the law, but Starr shouldn't be below it, either. I mean this goes back to your right wing conspiracy-

HILLARY CLINTON
I'm sorry.

JAMES CARVILLE
No, no. I'm sorry. This isn't the right time. I'm sorry.
INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - LATE MORNING

Flanked by his TEAM, Ken Starr approaches the White House MAP ROOM (where he’ll be questioning President Clinton) just as David Kendall and his STAFF are approaching from the opposite side.

Starr and Kendall shake hands.

    DAVID KENDALL
    Ken.
    KEN STARR
    David.

    KENDALL STAFFER
    (to Starr’s team)
    If you’ll follow me, I’ll show you to the Map Room where everything is already set up.

Starr starts to follow his team into the Map Room, but Kendall grabs him by the arm and leads him aside.

    DAVID KENDALL
    What about it?
    KEN STARR
    You know all those nice things I was quoted saying about you?

Starr nods.

    DAVID KENDALL (CONT’D)
    I didn’t say them.
    KEN STARR
    I didn’t think so.

Starr turns to go but Kendall stops him.

    DAVID KENDALL
    Another thing: The President is going to make an exceedingly difficult and personal admission to the Grand Jury.
    KEN STARR
    I think that’s what we’re all here for.
DAVID KENDALL
I'm warning you now: Do. Not. Push.
No intrusive questions, you hear me? If you get into detail, I will fight you to the knife, both here and publicly.

Off Starr, who doesn’t look intimidated one bit.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PAUL BEGALA'S OFFICE - LATE MORNING

Seated in Begala's office now: White House Press Secretary MIKE MCCURRY (early 40s), Emanuel, Thomason and White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations JOHN PODESTA (late 40s).

They huddle around Begala who is holding the last page of the remarks the President might give later in the evening.

JOHN PODESTA
(reading aloud)
"I am proud of what we have accomplished together. But in this case, I have fallen short of... that you should expect... a... resolution. I have filed a... religious... faith in our values... let too many people down. I take full responsibility for my actions, for hurting my wife and daughter, for hurting Monica Lewinsky and her family, for hurting friends and staff, and for hurting the country I love. None of this ever should have happened. I never should have had any sexual contact with Monica Lewinsky. But I did."

PAUL BEGALA
That's the best intro graph we've got so far and I think it's pretty damn pitch-perfect.

McCurry is the first to finish reading and nods his approval. Thomason and Podesta concur. Emanuel looks unsure.

Then, suddenly, MICKEY KANTOR (late 50s), former United States Secretary of Commerce, but still close friend of the President, barges into the room waving the yellow legal pages in Clinton's scrawl.

MICKEY KANTOR
I've got what he wants to say!
Begala rips the pages from Kantor's hand and the group huddles around, flabbergasted.

**LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON**
(reading)
"It is time to stop the pursuit of personal destruction and the prying into private lives..."

**JOHN PODESTA**
He's going on the offensive?

**LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON**
No, no. Way, way too strident.

**RAHM EMANUEL**
I told you that's what he wanted.

**PAUL BEGALA**
People are gonna hate this. They'll go crazy. We're not going to use this crap. It's got to be an apology, first and foremost.

And there they all stare, at a silent stare.

**INT. WHITE HOUSE: APARTMENT - AFTERNOON**

**Title: 1:00 PM**

Waiting in the Map Room, we find the Two Technicians, a COURT REPORTER and a SECRET SERVICE AGENT.

Starr, Bittman, Wisenberg and Bennett come into the Map Room along with THREE other LAWYERS from their team and take their places.

**INT. GRAND JURY ROOM - AFTERNOON**

The GRAND JURY take their seats as the MONITORS where they'll be watching the live link to the White House are turned on.

**INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Charles Ruff wheels into the Map Room in his wheelchair, followed by the Junior Staffer, David Kendall and another lawyer from their team, NICOLE SELIGMAN (41).
INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

President Clinton comes in last and takes his seat at a desk. At promptly 1:03 P.M., the CAMERAS are turned on.

ROBERT BITTMAN
Good afternoon, Mr. President. My name is Robert Bittman. I'm an attorney with the Office of Independent Counsel.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Good afternoon, Mr. Bittman.

CUT TO BLACK:

END ACT TWO
ACT THREE

INT. WHITE HOUSE: BEGALA’S OFFICE – AFTERNOON

Podesta, McCurry, Thomason, Emanuel, Deputy Press Secretary JOE LOCKHART (late 30s) are all huddled in Paul Begala’s office watching CNN.

Because the testimony isn’t televised, in the corner of the TV screen there’s a surreal “game clock” displaying the time elapsed during the Grand Jury session.

JOHN KING (ON TV)
Of course, Wolf, we don’t know what’s going on in the Map Room, inside the White House. We don’t know if the President will admit to having had a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky. We don’t know what the angle of Ken Starr’s questioning will be...

WOLF BLITZER (ON TV)
That’s right, John. We can’t.

JOHN KING
Oh, there’s a fly on the wall of the Map Room today...

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM – CONTINUOUS

President Clinton’s Grand Jury testimony continues:

ROBERT BITTMAN
Mr. President, we are first going to turn to some of the details of your relationship with Monica Lewinsky. The questions are uncomfortable, and I apologize for that in advance. I will try to be as brief and direct as possible. Mr. President: were you physically intimate with Monica Lewinsky?
PRESIDENT CLINTON

Mr. Bittman, I think maybe I can save you and the grand jurors a lot of time if I read a statement which I think will make it clear what the nature of my relationship with Ms. Lewinsky was, how it related to the testimony I gave, what I was trying to do in that testimony. With your permission, I'd like to read that statement.

Ken Starr nods his permission.

President Clinton pulls out some paper from his pocket, and puts on his reading glasses.

PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT’D)

When I was alone with Ms. Lewinsky on certain occasions in early 1996 and once in early 1997, I engaged in conduct that was wrong. These encounters did not consist of sexual intercourse. They did not constitute sexual relations at all. They occurred at one time to be deleted from my deposition. But the did involve inappropriate intimate contact.

Ruff winces as he only now learns that he’s been lied to all these months, and has, himself, perpetuated the lie.

From a new angle we watch the Jr. Staffer watching Ruff’s reaction, a look of sympathy on the young man’s face.

PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT’D)

These inappropriate encounters ended, at my insistence, in early 1997. I also had occasional telephone conversations with Ms. Lewinsky that included inappropriate sexual banter. I regret that what began as a friendship came to include this conduct, and I take full responsibility for my actions. (MORE)
PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT’D)
While I will provide the Grand Jury
whatever other information I can,
because of privacy considerations
affecting my family, myself, and
others, and in an effort to
preserve the dignity of the office
I hold, this is all I will say
about the specifics of these
particular matters. That, Mr.
Bittman, is my statement.

Bittman and Starr are confused. Wisenberg leans toward
Bennett and says, sotto voce:

SOLOMON WISENBERG
He’s not going to answer any more
questions? What the fuck are we
supposed to do for the next four
hours?

INT. WHITE HOUSE: BEGALA’S OFFICE – AFTERNOON

We’re back with Podesta, McCurry Thoma... ’miuel, and
Lockhart huddled in Pau...’a’ office at hi’g CNN.

On the TV, ‘CN...ow sho... p.e-...duced, animated
timel... with ’ra’i...ics ... B-ROLL. We hear voice-over from a
JOURNALIST (V.O.)
Then came the Paula Jones sexual
harassment case. Ken Starr had
recently announced he was moving on
to be the Dean of the Pepperdine
Law School, giving up his
investigation of the Clintons, when
suddenly the D.C. rumor mill
surfaced the name Monica Lewinsky,
who had turned up on the subpoena
list in the Jones case.

PAUL BEGALA
What the hell is going on with that
“game clock” there?

JOHN PODESTA
Like it were goddamned Monday Night
Football.

Lockhart becomes so angry, he throws a water bottle at the TV
and then starts to look through his ROLODEX.

JOE LOCKHART
I’ve had it.
Back on the TV, the animated timeline continues...

JOURNALIST (V.O.)
When Starr got the news, he approached Attorney General Janet Reno and requested that he be allowed to broaden his inquiry...

Meanwhile, Lockhart has connected with CNN.

JOE LOCKHART
John King? It’s Joe Lockhart here over at the White House. Listen, how about taking that inane clock off the screen?
(beat)
Why? Because it’s completely inaccurate, that’s why. How do you know how much time they’ve spent in breaks, going to the bathroom, having a bite to eat? This isn’t a fucking game show John. Have some dignity.
(beat)
Get it down, now!

He SLAMS the phone down just as Mickey Kantor pokes his head into the room.

MICKEY KANTOR
I just want you to know that the President appreciates everything you have done for him.

The group looks on in stunned disbelief.

MICKEY KANTOR (CONT’D)
Nobody should worry that the President has committed perjury, okay?

He closes the door and the room erupts:

PAUL BEGALA
What the hell was that?

JOHN PODESTA
Who the fuck does he think he is?

The others join in.
LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON
(blurting over the din)
Hey, CNN has removed that asinine
clock!

RAHM EMANUEL
PAUL BEGALA

Alright, Joe. Yeah.

Lockhart gets a high-five from Begala.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - AFTERNOON

TITLE: 2:30 PM

Back in the Map Room, Solomon Wisenberg is now asking the
questions.

SOLOMON WISENBERG
Mr. President, let's talk about a
statement of your attorney, Mr.
Bennett, at the Paula Jones
deposition. "Counsel is fully aware
that Ms. Lewinsky is f...in...a
affidavit, which...ex...in
pos session of, sayin' that th'...
w...al...olutely i.s...e. o...i...y kind
i. say...inner, shape or form with
P...s...d...t Clinton." That statement
was made by your attorney in front
of Judge Susan Webber Wright.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
That's correct.

SOLOMON WISENBERG
Your -- that statement is a
completely false statement. Whether
or not Mr. Bennett knew of your
relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, the
statement that there was no sex of
any kind in any manner, shape or
form with President Clinton was an
utterly false statement. Is that
correct?

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Well, it depends upon what the
meaning of the word is means. If is
means is, and never has been,
that's one thing. If it means,
there is none, that was a
completely true statement.
Starr and Bittman look at each other. They cannot believe what they’ve just heard.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MIKE MCCURRY’S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

TITLE: 2:45 PM

Sosnik sits with Carville, Bowles, McCurry and the First Lady.

MIKE MCCURRY
Right after that, Marine One is due to land on the South Lawn, at which point, the President, Chelsea and the First Lady should be ready to go.

JAMES CARVILLE
(to Hillary)
What if you stay behind for a day, take your own flight out?

HILLARY CLINTON
Are you kidding? I’d love to get a ride on Marine One. But there’s the landing at the White House, a bit later than the 10-mile walk to the lawn, which is going to be a bit less than our day. This is god-damn-take-a-town, and another day. You were supposed to be in Martha’s Vineyard three days ago... before all this... before any of this... We’re leaving tomorrow and that’s it.

Finally, she starts to crack a bit from the weight she’s been forced to carry until now. Carville gets it, puts a calming hand over her shoulder and walks her out of the room.

Bowles turns to McCurry and Sosnik.

ERSKINE BOWLES
It's easy to be there for someone when they're up, but it's the good ones who are there when you're down. Let’s not forget that.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - AFTERNOON

Title: 4:30 PM

Back in the Map Room, Ken Starr shakes the President out of his memory...
KEN STARR
Mr. President, I’ll ask you again... were you alone with Monica Lewinsky in the White House on December 28th, 1997?

President Clinton shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Yes. Yes, sir, I was.

KEN STARR
Okay. We’re making progress. Thank you. And when you were alone with Ms. Lewinsky, do you remember talking with her about her subpoena to appear in the Paula Jones case on that day?

President Clinton gets lost in another memory...

INT. WHITE HOUSE: OVAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK - DECEMBER 28, 1997

A small CHRISTMAS TREE stands in the corner of the office.

President Clinton seems an awfully he sits in his office. He tries to calm is nerves by getting up and playing with a little UPPY who is padding around the carpet when suddenly the phone BEEPS.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
(into phone)
Yes?

INT. WHITE HOUSE: BETTY CURRIE’S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The President’s Secretary, BETTY CURRIE (African-American, 50s) has the phone in her hand.

BETTY CURRIE
Ms. Lewinsky is here.

PRESIDENT CLINTON (O.C.)
Thanks, Betty. You can send her in.

Currie nods the go-ahead to MONICA LEWINSKY (24). The two women exchange a knowing-glance.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lewinsky enters and makes big eyes at the puppy.
PRESIDENT CLINTON
Meet Buddy.

MONICA LEWINSKY
Oh my god. He’s so cute. Even cuter than you described.

Lewinsky fawns all over the little dog, taking out a small present she’s brought for him.

She then tries to cozy up to the President, who doesn’t reciprocate.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Come on. Back here.

The two move into:

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PRESIDENT CLINTON’S PRIVATE OFFICE – CONTINUOUS

Monica spots a CANVAS BAG with presents piled high inside. Her eyes widen with excitement, but baf-ﬂe t.e President takes out the presents, ne baf- q. st.ons:

PRESIDENT CLINTON
(wi. sper.i. .3)
Al ju. tis subpoena in the Paula Jones case... Who do you think was cooperating with her lawyers?

MONICA LEWINSKY
I don’t know.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Well how do you think your name got on the list?

MONICA LEWINSKY
Really, I don’t know.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I bet it was that woman from the summer, with Kathleen Willey. The one who claimed I accosted Kathleen once, remember? What’s-her-name?

MONICA LEWINSKY
You mean Linda Tripp? No, I never told her anything.

President Clinton looks pensive.
PRESIDENT CLINTON
Well, you could avoid testifying if you swore out an affidavit. You could use one of our cover stories.

MONICA LEWINSKY
You mean say I was here delivering papers?

The President doesn’t say yes or no but the look on his face asks her to consider this.

MONICA LEWINSKY (CONT’D)
I don’t know. But what about your gifts? The lawyers called for them in the subpoena.

President Clinton considers the question.

MONICA LEWINSKY (CONT’D)
I could move them out of my apartment.

Again, he considers this.

MONICA LEWINSKY (CONT’D)
I could give them to Betty. What do you think of that?

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I don’t know.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GRAND JURY ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT

On the MONITORS inside the Grand Jury Room, the President looks tired, but not as utterly exhausted as the Grand Jury look, watching the live link.

KEN STARR
I want to go back briefly to the December 28th conversation with Ms. Lewinsky. I believe you testified to the effect that she asked you, what if they ask me about gifts you gave me. My question to you is, after that statement by her, did you ever have a conversation with your secretary, Betty Currie, about gifts, or picking something up from Monica Lewinsky?
PRESIDENT CLINTON
I don't believe I did, sir. No.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

KEN STARR
And so you have no knowledge that, or you had no knowledge at the time, that Betty Currie went and picked up, your secretary went and picked up from Monica Lewinsky items that were called for by the Jones subpoena and hid them under her bed? You had no knowledge that anything remotely like that was going to happen?

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I did not. I did not know she had those items, I believe, until that was made public.

KEN STARR
And you agree with me now that would be a very interesting, highly relevant, evidence in this case, a very case? Isn't that true?

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Yes, sir.

KEN STARR
Do you recall telling her that she was on the witness list, and that it broke your heart that she was on the witness list?

PRESIDENT CLINTON
No, sir, I don't, but it would - it, it would - it is quite possible that that happened. I don't have any memory of it, but I certainly wouldn't dispute that I might have said that.

KEN STARR
And in that conversation, or in any conversation in which you informed her she was on the witness list, did you tell her, you know, you can always say that you were coming to see Betty or bringing me letters? Did you tell her anything like that?
PRESIDENT CLINTON
I don't remember. She was coming to see Betty. I can tell you this: I absolutely never asked her to lie.

KEN STARR
Sir, every time she came to see Betty and you were in the Oval Office, she was coming to see you, too, wasn't she?

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I think just about every time. I don't think every time. I think there was a time or two where she came to see Betty when she didn't see me. But I also will tell you that I felt quite comfortable that she could have executed a truthful affidavit, which would not have disclosed the embarrassing details of the relationship that we had had, which had been over for many, many months by the time this incident occurred.

KEN STARR
You would agree with me, if you did say something like that to her, to urge her to say that to the Jones people, that that would be part of an effort to mislead the Jones people, no matter how evil they are and corrupt?

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I didn't say they were evil. I said what they were doing here was wrong, and it was. I can tell you this: I never asked Ms. Lewinsky to lie.

KEN STARR
Did you ever say anything like that, you can always say that you were coming to see Betty or bringing me letters? Was that part of any kind of a, anything you said to her or a cover story, before you had any idea she was going to be part of Paula Jones?

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I might well have said that.
KEN STARR
Okay.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Because I certainly didn't want this to come out, if I could help it.

Starr lets this hang in the air, to give weight to what the President just said to the Grand Jury.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SITUATION ROOM – LATE MORNING

Back in the Situation Room, Sandy Berger, Al Gore, Madeleine Albright and National Security Council Staff are still hunkered down, thinking through next steps.

AL GORE
The media will have a field day, he’s right on that, especially given that movie that came out earlier this year.

SANDY BERGER
Jesus Christ, "we're all in it a r o..."
A-1, a-1 here, p y o r i a-ly the most d n r c t, ter- r i s t organization in t i r o r d, and you're talking about a movie?

MADELINE ALBRIGHT
Wag the Dog.

SANDY BERGER
What?!

MADELINE ALBRIGHT
That’s the movie he’s referring to. A few days before an election, Robert DeNiro, who plays this spin-doctor, distracts the whole country from a political sex scandal by hiring a Hollywood film producer to concoct a fake war with Albania.

AL GORE
It’s just bad timing. Bad luck.

SANDY BERGER
To hell with that. Are you kidding me? He can’t cave to the media, to the right, to anyone. 

(MORE)
SANDY BERGER (CONT'D)
The longer he waits to act on bin Laden, the more he puts our national security at risk. You remember the World Trade bombing in ’93?

AL GORE
Listen, Sandy--

SANDY BERGER
No, you all listen to me: a thousand people were injured and half a dozen people lost their lives in that attack, orchestrated by terrorists who trained with bin Laden in the very same training camps we’ve got in our cross-hairs this morning.

(beat)
In ’93, it was a truck bomb, in the underground parking lot, beneath the North Tower. Now imagine for a second if they were able to get 10 or 12 coordinated truck bombs under the towers. Just imagine if... of if... it would make us... C’mon, like a fing fender-bender. I swear that kind of blood on your hands? I sure as hell do not!

Berger storms out leaving the others to contemplate the future.

CUT TO BLACK.

END ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

We open with newsreel footage of various ANCHORS and the "Breaking News" -- President Clinton's Grand Jury testimony has wrapped up at 6:20 PM. They bait viewers to stay tuned for the latest updates, including reactions from Congressmen and a potential address to the nation by the President himself.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Title: 6:25 PM

The questioning over, we watch Starr and his team packing up their briefcases.

ROBERT BITTMAN
(sotto to team)
He abso-fucking-lutely told Lewinsky to lie.

KEN STARR
(sotto, proud)
We've got him. On c--st. uction c.
's ice... ta--ring with w't he...

JACKIE BENNETT
And oh-yes-he-did have sex with that woman!

KEN STARR
We've got him on perjury...

SOLOMON WISENBERG
This is bigger than Watergate.

KEN STARR
Abusing his power... I mean: We've got him. We've finally got him.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

President Clinton makes his way out of the Map Room with Ruff, Kendall and Seligman. They appear to be in good moods, despite the long, tiring day.

DAVID KENDALL
Well I think it went well.

NICOLE SELIGMAN
You burned through all their time.
CHUCK RUFF
Made it clear that this is your private life.

NICOLE SELIGMAN
Which has nothing to do with Whitewater or anything they’ve been digging at all these years.

DAVID KENDALL
Insanity.

Standing there to greet Clinton is James Carville, who gives the President a big hug.

JAMES CARVILLE
You okay?

But before he can answer, Sosnik steps in with McCurry.

DOUG SOSNIK
Sorry to interrupt you guys, but we need to make a decision about whether the President should or national television.

MIKE LEUPOLZ
I say we should speak until tomorrow, it could be seen as a sign that the testimony went badly. We’ve got five minutes to alert the Evening News, who will want to announce that you’ll be going on the air later tonight and get the word out.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Well I feel fine. What do you guys think?

DOUG SOSNIK
If you feel okay, then we’d probably prefer you go on.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Okay. Going to take a shower and have a fresh look at the various drafts we’ve got in the mix.

President Clinton heads off with his legal team but we stay with Sosnik and McCurry.

DOUG SOSNIK
(counting off on his fingers)
(MORE)
DOUG SOSNIK (CONT'D)
Rahm's... Paul's... his own... Did Mickey write one? How many cooks are in this kitchen?

MIKE MCCURRY
You don't have enough fingers.

DOUG SOSNIK
Well is he going to go on the offensive or will it strictly be an apology?

MIKE MCCURRY
That's the $64,000-question now, isn't it?

INT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - HALLWAY - EVENING

Bob Livingston is being interviewed on camera by a NEWS NETWORK REPORTER.

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #1
What do you think the 'resid-'
said or did rot say to ay dur? in his four-hour 'est'my bef or 'e g'ard 'u y?

BOB LIVINGSTON
It's not for me to speculate. We don't want a witch-hunt. But if the President of the United States confessed that he lied under oath, well that's a huge deal... it's the responsibility of Congress to take that seriously.

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #1
So you're saying you'd try to impeach a very popular President because he had a fling with an intern?

INT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - HALLWAY - EVENING

Elsewhere, Tom DeLay is being interviewed with similar questions.

TOM DELAY
Well we wouldn't treat him differently just because he's the President. If he lied under oath, that's perjury. Perjury with a capital P.
INT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - HALLWAY - EVENING

Still elsewhere, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN (50) is taking similar questions from a MEDIA SCRUM.

JOE LIEBERMAN
Look, this whole circus is three things plain and simple: First, it’s the GOP’s last-ditch effort to get at a very popular, two-term president... Second: they think this is going to affect the mid-terms, which it won’t. And third, it sells newspapers and advertising spots on networks like yours. That’s all this is. You all have turned it into something much larger than it actually is. And the sad truth is: all of this (indicating all the cameramen and crews everywhere) is preventing us from doing our jobs... the very work. "The American people..."

INT. WHITE HOUSE: OLAR. - EVENING

Title: 8:30 PM

There are a few groups huddled in the large room arguing back and forth about what the President should say in his television address. In one corner, we find Begala, Emanuel, Ruff, Sosnik and Kendall. Begala is looking over Sosnik’s shoulder and pointing at some copy on a printout.

In the other corner, we see the President, Kantor, Bowles, and Linda Thomason, who is joined now by her husband, another film and television producer, HARRY THOMASON (late 50s). CNN is on the TV as PUNDITS go back and forth: What will we learn? What will the implications be? James Carville enters the room with a cup of coffee and passes by the TV just as one of the Pundits says:

PUNDIT #1
Everyone in the country has one thing and one thing only on their minds: What will President Clinton say?

JAMES CARVILLE
(to the TV)
If you guys have any good ideas, can you fax them on over here?
He then heads over and joins Begala’s camp.

    PAUL BEGALA
    (pissed)
    I said it this morning, I said it
    this afternoon: if you don’t strike
    these sentences here, his
    presidency is over, Doug.

    DOUG SOSNIK
    He specifically told me to keep
    that in. He’s right over there. Ask
    him.

    PAUL BEGALA
    If he uses this draft...I just
    don’t know how I can continue to
    work here. I mean we just tried
    doing things his way for eight
    months and it landed us in the
    shitter.

From a new angle, we find President Clinton as he’s being
taken aside by Linda and Harry Thomas\n
    LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON
    (\n    President. . come on. We get
    that you want to take back the
    narrative.

    HARRY THOMASON
    One-hundred percent.

    HARRY THOMASON
    We know you’re fighting for Hillary
    with these digs at Starr, not just
    fighting for yourself.

    HARRY THOMASON
    And that’s commendable, we get
    that, but Mr. President -

    PRESIDENT CLINTON
    I don’t think you do, Harry.
    Hillary aside, he can’t be allowed
to just--

Bowles, who has been reading Clinton’s notes in the margins
of a fresh draft, suddenly interrupts. The conversation grows
increasingly intense.

    ERSKINE BOWLES
    (over the din at the
    President)
    (MORE)
ERSKINE BOWLES (CONT'D)
Are you kidding me? We’ve been over this. Mr. President, you just cannot attack Starr like this. It will backfire and you’ll lose your own supporters. The Democrats will turn on us.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Listen, Erskine, I was wrong. I have to apologize to the American people. But what Starr has done--it’s outrageous! If I don’t say that, no one else will.

RAHM EMANUEL
People aren’t going to hang with you because you’re opposed to Starr. They’re going to hang with you because of what you’re doing for them.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I’m not so sure.

RAHM EMANUEL
Mr. President, you’ve been the new Mr. Slippery. The comeback kid. The wor... because you went on Sixty Minutes after the whole Gennifer Flowers thing and told the entire nation you’d caused pain in your marriage.

PAUL BEGALA
It boosted your numbers because you apologized, you were sincere and you told the truth:
(stings)
That you hurt Hillary and a helluva lot of other people, too.

A beat as the President lets this sink in. For a moment it looks like he’s going to acquiesce, but then:

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I can’t just let this go. Damn it! Somebody has to say these things. I don’t care if I’m impeached. It’s the right thing to do.

A beat of silence. Into this awkwardness walks Hillary Clinton. Carville has the good sense to quickly turn off the TV, as the Pundits are, at that very moment, questioning how the First Lady might be handling all this.
PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT’D)
(to his wife)
Paul, Linda, Harry and Erskine are trying to convince me not to call out Mr. Starr. But I say he’s gone too far. Seems like Mickey and David are the only ones who agree with me, that this son of a bitch needs to be put in his place.

She nods, but doesn’t otherwise respond and the room picks the argument back up.

MICKEY KANTOR
The President knows what he’s doing here.

DAVID KENDALL
Agreed.

ERSKINE BOWLES
David, have you lost your mind?

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMAS
He’s got to be more circumspect. I’m telling you.

HARRIET THOMASON
Linda is right. Remember-

HILLARY CLINTON
(cutting in)
That’s right. We need to remember.

The room falls into a hush.

HILLARY CLINTON (CONT’D)
Remember.
(beat)
Remember Whitewater. Travelgate. Filegate. Chinagate. Our dear friend, Vincent Foster’s, suicide. You all know as well as I that this has been a goddamn partisan witch-hunt from the very beginning.
(beat)
We’re making crooked land deals. We’re funding the radical feminist agenda. We belong to a satanic cult. We’ve committed murder. It’s just one absurd allegation after the next, fueled by the right, and bankrolled by the American people.
(beat)
Remember.

(MORE)
HILLARY CLINTON (CONT’D)

(beat)
The American people, who we all work for. They deserve to hear the truth. Now let’s put aside our differences and whatever else we might be feeling...

(a beat for weight)
...and unite on this. There’s a time for apologizing on Sixty Minutes, but this isn’t it.

She looks around. No one argues with her. Some people avoid her gaze. Then, after a long silence:

ERSKINE BOWLES
I’m sorry Mrs. Clinton, but I just cannot support this. Going after Starr now, after the truth has now come out, with all due respect, is just not... smart. This is crazy...
I’m sorry, but it’s just stupid and wrong.

Everyone is taken aback.

ENSANG NE P. WLi S. COI T’.)
We’ve screwed up, we admit it and apologize. You won’t take the cowardly way out and blame it on somebody else.

The room stays silent. Finally, the First Lady walks right up to her husband (the closest we have seen them all episode.)

HILLARY CLINTON
You’re the president of the United States of America. It’s your speech. You should say what you want to say.

And with that, she walks out.

END ACT FOUR
ACT FIVE

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Standing by himself, President Clinton prepares to address the nation from the Map Room, where hours ago he gave his grand jury testimony.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

With minutes to go, Paul Begala starts loading the speech into a Teleprompter.

TWO CAMERAMEN sit at the ready.

Finally, the President walks in, now accompanied by Harry Thomason and Linda Bloodworth-Thomason standing on either side of him. Linda takes a seat in a chair out of camera range and Harry sits cross-legged on the floor.

President Clinton sits down soberly, placing his palms on his knees, steeling himself.

    T.E.C. "N.CIA"
    T'e mə 'sēds tcˌ kə .ɪg.sor on the
    P.es(təˌr)ˈs l_ˌl.t.

    PAUL BEGALA
    I've got it.

Paul walks over to move it.

Seconds later, the cameras are turned on.

Title: 9:00 pm

President Clinton speaks directly to camera... the entire nation, if not the world, staring back at him.

    PRESIDENT CLINTON
    As you know, in a deposition in January, I was asked questions about my relationship with Monica Lewinsky. While my answers were legally accurate, I did not volunteer information. Indeed, I did have a relationship with Miss Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong. It constituted a critical lapse in judgment and a personal failure on my part for which I am solely and completely responsible.

    (MORE)
PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT’D)
But I told the Grand Jury today and
I say to you now that at no time
did I ask anyone to lie, to hide or
destroy evidence, or to take any
other unlawful action. I know that
my public comments and my silence
about this matter gave a false
impression. I misled people,
including even my wife. I deeply
regret that.

INT. TOM DELAY’S OFFICE – EVENING

Tom DeLay is watching the address live on TV with his
communications director MICHAEL SCANLON (20).

TOM DELAY
   (screaming at TV)
   Holy mother of god. He perjured
   himself. We got him.
   (to Scanlon)
   Send an e-mail to the leadership.
   Everyone in my office first thing
tomorrow morning.

MICHAEL SCANLON
   (euphoric)
   Here we go!

Scanlon, who is in front of his computer, opens a new e-mail
window.

As he types, we cut CLOSE ON his computer SCREEN... punching
words, dramatically.

We got him!...

He looked into America’s eyes and lied...

The above (and subsequent scenes) play out over the
continuation of the President’s address:

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM – CONTINUOUS

PRESIDENT CLINTON
   (on TV)
   This has gone on too long, cost too
   much, and hurt too many innocent
   people. Now, this matter is between
   me, the two people I love most: my
   wife and our daughter and our God.
   (MORE)
PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT'D)
I must put it right, and I am
prepared to do whatever it takes to
do so. Nothing is more important to
me personally. But it is private,
and I intend to reclaim my family
life for my family.

INT. NEWT GINGRICH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Newt Gingrich is watching the address with ambition in his
eyes as his STAFFER receives Scanlon's e-mail. We read as he reads:

This whole thing about not kicking someone when they are down
is BS.

Not only do you kick him, you kick him until he passes out...

GINGRICH STAFFER
You're gonna want to read this,
sir. It's from Congressman DeLay's
office.

INT. BOB LIV'N GUSTON'S O'C 'CE - CC WIU O 'S

Bob Livingston is harder to read. President Clinton's
remarks seem to take him by surprise as he watches on a TV in
his office. Simultaneously, MARK CORALLO (MID 20'S) an aide to
Livingston, receives the e-mail.

We read as he reads:

...then beat him over the head with a baseball bat, then roll
him up in an old rug, and throw him off a cliff into the
pounding surf below!!!

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SOLARIUM - CONTINUOUS

Begala and Linda Thomas watch in disbelief.

PAUL BEGALA
(sotto to Linda)
He's fucked it up so badly now...
Jesus, I can't watch this.

He walks out, avoiding eye contact with the First Lady.
INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM – CONTINUOUS

PRESIDENT CLINTON
It's nobody's business but ours.
Even presidents have private lives.
It is time to stop the pursuit of
personal destruction and the prying
into private lives and get on with
our national life.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN – MOMENTS LATE

Dozens of CAMERA CREWS situated outside the WHITE HOUSE as NEWSCASTERS react to what the President just said.

We find Wolf Blitzer in the throng.

WOLF BLITZER
(to cameraman)
President Clinton delivering
remarks to the nation, now saying
that he did indeed have a
relationship with Moni'a
Lewinsky...

INT. CH' MBER OF REPRESENTATIVES – HALLWAY – CONT

Inside the Chamber, various CONGRESSMEN are being interviewed by SCRUMS of REPORTERS for their reaction.

We find Joe Lieberman, who looks stunned.

JOE LIEBERMAN
Well, you know, uh, I don't think
he handled it well at all. Quite a
disaster, actually. I think the
President, with his admissions
tonight, jeopardized this
administration's historic record of
accomplishment, much of which has
grown out of the principles and
programs that he and I and many
others have worked on together in
the new Democratic movement... so
it's... well, disappointing, to say
the least.

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #2
Do you think you speak for a lot of
democrats right now?
JOE LIEBERMAN
Well, I haven’t polled the entire caucus...

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #1
Were you surprised he admitted to an affair?

JOE LIEBERMAN
Sure. Yeah. Of course. You know he’s been saying nothing happened for all these months. So...

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #2
How do you think the American people are going to feel?

JOE LIEBERMAN
Betrayed.

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #1
Is it time for the President to resign?

Lieberman doesn’t have an answer to that, but his PRESS SECRETARY does:

LIEBERMAN’S PRESS SECRETARY
No more questions. Thank you very much.

The Reporters shout out question over question, but Lieberman and his Press Secretary just walk away.

EXT. WASHINGTON, DC - EVENING

An aerial shot moving over the NATIONAL MALL and WASHINGTON MONUMENT toward the WHITE HOUSE, much like the beginning of the episode.

Title: 11:30 PM

Over this we hear a cacophony of NEWS REPORTS about the President’s speech, what a disaster it was...

INT. WHITE HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

In the Clinton’s private bedroom, the First Lady stares stonily out the window.
INT. WHITE HOUSE - HALLWAY OUTSIDE BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Out in the hallway, President Clinton approaches their closed bedroom door.

The President takes a deep breath before opening the bedroom door and stepping in... The door closes behind him.

CUT TO BLACK.

END ACT FIVE
ACT SIX

End Credits

END PILOT