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THE WEST WING

"Shibboleth"

Story by
Patrick Caddell

Teleplay by
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Directed by
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THE WEST WING

"Shibboleth"

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THE WEST WING

"Shibboleth"

CAST LIST

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

BONNIE
CAROL
MRS. LANDINGHAM
GINGER
MARGARET

RUSSO *
CALE *
MORTON HORN
AIDES
REPORTER #1
REPORTER #2
AL CALDWELL
JOHN LA SALLE
MARY MARSH
AIDE #1
AIDE #2
AIDE #3
AIDE #4
BERTRAM
GARDNER
JOSEPHINE MCGARRY
JHIN WEI
VOICE (O.S.)
SINGING (KIDS)

THE WEST WING

"Shibboleth"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

WHITE HOUSE

Communications Bullpen
Leo's Office
Corridors
Carol's Office
C.J.'s Office
Mrs. Landingham's Office
Oval Office
Press Briefing Room
Roosevelt Room
Mural Room
Bullpen
Josh's Office

EXTERIORS

DOCKSIDE - NIGHT

THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT (EST.)
THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY (EST.)
THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY (EST.)
THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY (EST.)
THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT (EST.)
THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY (EST.)

"Shibboleth"

TEASER

From the BLACK we HEAR:

Indecipherable radio crackle.

1 **EXT. DOCKSIDE - NIGHT**

1

A ground fog rises off the Pacific on this beautiful autumn night as the moon bounces off the hulls of the great ships at their moorings.

TITLE:

**24th Street Terminal
San Diego Harbor**

As we pull back, we see the radio crackle is coming from several vehicles, some with red and blue flashing lights, that are pulling up and forming a semi-circle. And now we see some of the markings on the vehicles: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service; United States Coast Guard; U.S. Bureau of Customs.

Official looking men, some of them in Coast Guard uniforms are starting to gather and talk among themselves. A CIVILIAN approaches an OFFICER and flashes his I.D.

CIVILIAN (RUSSO)
Commander Cale?

CALE
Yeah.

RUSSO
Joseph Russo, INS.

CALE
It's the container ship Horizon, we're holding 'em a half-mile out. They started from the Fugian Province.

RUSSO
How many?

CALE
Maybe 100.

RUSSO
Did you call the State Department?

*

(CONTINUED)

CALE
Yeah, we're gonna need some translators
who speak Mandarin.

RUSSO
We got 'em.

CALE
Are we talking about expedited removal
or--

RUSSO
(not hearing)
I'm sorry?

CALE
Are we talking about expedited removal?

RUSSO
That's not up to me.

CUT TO:

2 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

2

SAM (VO)
"Well over three and a half centuries
ago, strengthened by faith and bound by a
common desire for liberty--

CUT TO:

3 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - NIGHT

3

It's Sunday evening and SAM is sitting in the empty bullpen
with his feet up on a desk, reading the text of a speech out
loud to TOBY.

SAM
--a small band of Pilgrims sought out a
place in the New World where they could
worship according to their own beliefs."
(pause)
And solve crimes.

TOBY
Sam--

SAM
It'd be good.

TOBY
Read the thing.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

By day they churn butter and worship according to their own beliefs, and by night they solve crimes.

TOBY

Read the thing.

SAM

Pilgrim Detectives.

TOBY

Do you see me laughing?

SAM

I think you're laughing on the inside.

TOBY

I'm not.

SAM

Okay.

TOBY

Read it.

SAM

"Surviving their first harsh winter in Massachusetts, and grateful to a merciful God for a sustaining harvest, the men and women of Plymouth Colony set aside three days as a time to give thanks for the bounty of their fields, the fruits of their labor, the chance to live in peace with their Native American neighbors, and the blessings of a land where they could live free and worship freely."

(pause)

And solve crimes.

TOBY

Okay--

SAM

With the big hats.

TOBY

Gimme the speech.

C.J. comes in, also dressed in weekend clothes--

(CONTINUED)

C.J.

Have either of you heard of, I don't know, the something, the Jamestown Mayflower Daughters of the American Revolution Preservation Society?

*
*
*
*

TOBY

The Jamestown Mayflower Daughters--

*
*

C.J.

I may have gotten the name wrong. They're inviting the White House to participate in some kind of, I don't know, Thanksgiving Revolutionary War re-enactment.

*
*
*
*
*

TOBY

C.J., let's not torture American History completely to death.

*
*

C.J.

Who the hell--

*

TOBY

Jamestown was the 16th century, the Mayflower landed in Plymouth in the 17th century and the fathers of the Daughters of the American Revolution fought in the 18th century.

*
*
*
*
*
*

C.J.

It's a festival feast of some kind, who cares.

*
*
*

SAM

Somebody needs to learn the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

C.J.

Please, we've got re-enactments and proclamations and Native American corn husk hanging contests with--

*
*
*

TOBY

Corn husk hanging--

*

C.J.

Whatever, I'm the Thanksgiving cruise director around here.

*
*
*

SAM

It wasn't like this last year?

*
*

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
I wasn't here last year.

SAM
Where were you last year?

C.J.
They sent me home last year. You don't
remember me having a 101.7 degree fever
and all kinds of flu-like symptoms?

TOBY
No.

C.J.
That's cause every time we come up on a
holiday, you guys check out like seniors
who are done with finals.

TOBY
We're writing a very important
Thanksgiving proclamation.

SAM
And possibly a new action-adventure
series.

TOBY
Nobody here has checked out.

JOSH comes in--

JOSH
Hey I was just flipping a nickel in my
office. Sixteen times in a row it came up
tails.

C.J.
I'm going home.

TOBY
Have a good night.

C.J.
Yeah yeah.

C.J.'s gone.

JOSH
16 times in a row.

The three of them get up as DONNA steps in--

(CONTINUED)

DONNA
'Scuse me. Fellas?

JOSH
Yeah.

DONNA
(calling in back of her)
It's okay. You can come in here.

A HIGH SCHOOL KID steps in behind DONNA, carrying a cage with two turkeys.

DONNA
This is Morton Horn, he's from Jasper Farms in Virginia. Tell 'em what you're doing here, Morton.

MORTON
I'm dropping off the turkeys.

DONNA
He's dropping off the turkeys.

SAM
Hey.

DONNA
What?

SAM
Those are turkeys.

DONNA
Good eye, Sam.

TOBY
What are--

DONNA
Nobody left me instructions. He had a pass for the Northwest entrance.

MORTON
I'm dropping off the turkeys.

TOBY
Yeah.

MORTON
Where should I put 'em?

(CONTINUED)

Well this is too good to be true. TOBY, JOSH and SAM are all thinking the same thing. They know if they look at each other they'll crack up. After a moment...

TOBY, JOSH AND SAM
C.J. Cregg's office/C.J./C.J. Cregg

JOSH
You'll want to take it to--

SAM
C.J.

TOBY
Yeah, she's usually the one who--

JOSH
C.J. Cregg--

TOBY
Donna can show you the--

SAM
Her office is right back over--

JOSH
C.J. should really--

TOBY
Yeah.

DONNA
This way.

TOBY
And Morton?

MORTON turns around--

TOBY
Ms. Cregg is gone for the night and her office is secure so...you should feel free to let the turkeys out of the cage and allow them to, you know, roam freely... as they were meant to do.

MORTON
Okay.

TOBY
Okay.

DONNA and MORTON exit.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
Show her who's slackin' off.

TOBY
Pizza?

JOSH
Yeah.

They start to head out, but BONNIE's answered the phone a moment ago and--

BONNIE
Josh?

JOSH
Yeah.

BONNIE
A Commander Cale of the Coast Guard is
talking to the watch commander in the
Situation Room and they want you to sit
in on the call. *

JOSH
What's goin' on?

BONNIE
I don't know.

JOSH picks up a phone and hits a button--

JOSH
(into phone)
Josh Lyman.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 **EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY** 4

TITLE:

Monday Morning

JOSH (VO)

It's an 800 foot container ship called
the Horizon.

CUT TO:

5 **INT. LEO'S OFFICE - DAY** 5

JOSH

73 Chinese were stowed away in containers
in the hold. *

LEO

I heard 86. *

JOSH

13 of them died on the way. *

LEO

What happened to the dead bodies?

JOSH

They came over with the 73 live ones. INS
has 'em in a temporary detention facility
by the water. *

LEO

Brief C.J.

JOSH

You doing anything for Thanksgiving?

LEO

The First Family, what about you?

JOSH

Toby and Sam and I are gonna watch
football.

LEO

Brief C.J. on the Chinese.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
Yeah. Hey, Leo, do me a favor, would you.
Don't tell the President we're just
watching football, he'll want to invite
us for dinner.

LEO
Yes, I'm sure upon hearing the news that
you're free, the President of the United
States will insist that you join him for
dinner.

JOSH
I'm just sayin' we've been working hard
and we'd prefer to watch football rather
than listen to a history of the yam in
Latin.

LEO
Brief C.J.

JOSH
Yeah.

JOSH heads out into--

6 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 6

--where he runs into C.J., wearing her coat and carrying a
briefcase.

JOSH
Hey.

C.J.
Hello.

JOSH
Listen.

They walk into--

7 INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 7

C.J.
What.

JOSH
About a hundred Chinese stowed away in
the cargo hold of a container ship. INS
has 'em in a temporary internment camp in
San Diego. *

C.J.
I'll need more than that.

JOSH
I don't have more than that but I will in a few minutes so stay outa the press room until you talk to me.

C.J.
What about the recess appointments?

JOSH
Toby wants to talk to the President about adding a name. *

C.J.
Who?

JOSH
Josephine McGarry.

C.J.
(pause)
Really.

JOSH
Yeah.

C.J.
Is this as a favor to Leo? *

JOSH
This is Toby is sniffing around for a fight on school prayer. *

C.J.
He'll get one. *

JOSH
Yeah. *

C.J.
Well, I'm gonna go see what's next for me in this week of unendurable Thanksgiving nonsense. *

JOSH
Okay.

C.J. walks into--

8 INT. CAROL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 8

CAROL
Hey, C.J.

C.J.
Hey Carol.

C.J. walks into--

9 INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 9

--where she tosses her purse and her briefcase on the desk and then starts to take off her coat, but then stops, because sitting next to her purse and her briefcase on the desk...

...is a turkey. She stares at the turkey for a moment, who stares right back. Then the sound of wings suddenly fluttering turns C.J. around and she sees, sitting on the couch, another turkey.

After a moment, CAROL comes in.

CAROL
Oh yeah. The turkeys came.

Through the glass we see DONNA running down the hall and waving her arms--

DONNA
Wait! Wait! Wait! I'm coming!

DONNA comes into C.J.'s office.

DONNA
I didn't think you were here yet.

C.J.
(pause)
I am.

DONNA
The turkeys came.

C.J.
So Carol said.

CAROL
Excuse me.

CAROL steps out.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA
Josh and Toby and Sam said they should go
in your office.

C.J.
Yes.

DONNA
These are the turkeys.

C.J.
The turkeys for what?

DONNA
(pause--realizing)
You weren't here last year.

C.J.
When?

DONNA
Over Thanksgiving. You were sick.

C.J.
Yes.

DONNA
Every year on Thanksgiving, the President
pardons a turkey.

C.J.
He pardons a turkey.

DONNA
Yeah, and it's your event, so--

C.J.
Why are there two?

DONNA
I'm sorry?

C.J.
Why are there two turkeys?

DONNA
Customarily the press secretary decides--

C.J.
No.

DONNA
--which of the two finalists is more
photogenic.
(pause)
Their names--

C.J.
(evenly)
I don't want to know their names.

DONNA
(pause)
This one's Eric.
(beat)
And this one's Troy.

C.J.
Eric and Troy.

DONNA
Yeah.

C.J.
And I'm to choose the more photogenic of
the two to receive a presidential pardon.

DONNA
Yeah.

C.J.
Okay. I have, actually, a masters degree
in political science from the University
of California at Berkeley.

DONNA
That's a good school.

C.J.
Yeah.

DONNA
(beat)
They eat grain, or, really, whatever's
lying around. And Troy doesn't like to be
touched.

C.J.
(pause)
I'd like to be alone now.

DONNA
I understand.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA exits. Troy flaps his wings.

CUT TO:

10 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 10

CHARLIE comes in wearing his coat and carrying a small shopping bag. He runs into SAM.

SAM
Hey.

CHARLIE
Hey, Sam.

SAM
What's goin' on?

CHARLIE
I'm shopping for a new carving knife for the President.

SAM
This President takes carving knives very seriously.

CHARLIE
Yes, I've discovered.

SAM
Would you mind telling him I'm gonna need a few minutes to talk about the Chinese in San Diego? Something's going on.

CHARLIE
What?

SAM
We're just getting it now.

CHARLIE walks into--

11 INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 11

--where he takes out a wooden box and leaves the bag on his desk.

MRS. LANDINGHAM
How'd you do?

CHARLIE
I think I've got it this time.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. LANDINGHAM
I wouldn't get your hopes up, dear.

CHARLIE
No, this is a very good knife.

MRS. LANDINGHAM
He's very particular.

CHARLIE continues into the Oval Office--

CHARLIE
(under his breath)
That's one word for it.

MRS. LANDINGHAM
I heard that.

CHARLIE walks into--

12 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

12

CHARLIE
Mr. President.

BARTLET
Ahhhhhh--

CHARLIE
I think you'll find those to your liking,
Mr. President.

BARTLET
Yes. Yes. Indeed I do.

CHARLIE
Excellent.

BARTLET
The Chef's Choice. Twice the amount of
carbon, which means it'll hold a sharp
edge up to ten times longer, and you can
see the handle, which is texturized
molded polymer, has no rivets or air
pockets.

CHARLIE
Well, I'm glad you're happy, Mr.
President.

CHARLIE starts to exit, BARTLET stops him with--

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET
This is an American knife.

CHARLIE
Yes.

BARTLET
No German knives for us.

CHARLIE
No sir.

BARTLET
Good job.

CHARLIE
Thank you, sir.

BARTLET
Hang on.

CHARLIE
(turning around)
Sir?

BARTLET
(testing the knife)
No.
(beat)
No.
(beat)
No, the balance isn't right.

CHARLIE
I'll take it back, sir.

BARTLET
Yeah. You know what we need?

CHARLIE
A German knife?

BARTLET
Yeah.

CHARLIE
I'll get on it. And Mr. President, Sam asked me to give you a heads up, he'll need a few minutes to talk about San Diego.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET
You can tell him they already briefed me
on San Diego.

CHARLIE
He says there might be something else.

BARTLET
Okay.

CHARLIE
Thank you, Mr. President.

TOBY's stepped in--

TOBY
Sir?

BARTLET
The Germans know how to make a knife,
Charlie.

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

CHARLIE exits--

BARTLET
Josephine McGarry?

TOBY
She's been put on a lot of short lists,
why not pull the trigger.

BARTLET
She's a pretty controversial woman.

TOBY
That's not a flaw.

BARTLET
It is when it's a recess appointment. A
recess appointment assumes the Senate's
gonna have no problem with the nominee.
The Senate's gonna have a considerable
problem with this nominee.

TOBY
That's the Senate's problem.

BARTLET
Toby--

(CONTINUED)

TOBY
Mr. President, you want to have a debate
on school prayer?

BARTLET
Yes I do.

TOBY
This'll start it.

BARTLET
I've gotta say--Look, I'm just...Toby,
I'm not wild about the woman. I've known
her for 25 years, I think she's *All About*
Eve.

TOBY
Well, I wouldn't cast her in a play, but
at the Department of Education--

BARTLET
Yeah--

LEO comes in from his office--

LEO
Good morning.

TOBY
(to BARTLET)
You want to have a debate on school
prayer?

BARTLET
Yeah.

TOBY
This'll start it.

LEO
What are we talking about?

BARTLET
Recess appointments.

LEO
I've got the final list right here.

BARTLET
Hey, Leo--

(CONTINUED)

LEO
(reading)
James Elkins, Assistant Secretary of
Transportation for Aviation, Leslie
Cryer, Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Economic Development, Umberto Sepio,
Deputy Administrator for the EPA--

TOBY
Leo, we're adding a name.

LEO
Who?

BARTLET
Josey.

LEO
No, no--

BARTLET
Assistant Secretary for Primary and
Secondary Education.

LEO
Did my sister--

BARTLET
We want the debate.

LEO
Did my sister call you and ask you for
this?

BARTLET
She did not call me.

LEO
I'm amazed.

TOBY
She called me.

LEO
I'm less amazed. Take her name off the
list.

BARTLET
It's not patronage if she's qualified.

LEO
Sir--

TOBY

Which she is. Ph.D. in Education, six years as a principal, four years as superintendent and a significant Democrat.

LEO

They'll bring up school prayer.

BARTLET

No kidding.

LEO

Mr. President, please don't hop on the back of Toby's horse, it will take you to a fight we're not geared up for.

TOBY

We are geared up for it and if we're not we should get out.

LEO

Sure, you first.

TOBY

I'll take the meetings.

LEO

You're damn right you'll take the meetings. And you'll start with aides to the Republican leadership and you'll gauge exactly the volume of dumbness with no reward we can expect.

SAM and JOSH come in--

JOSH

Excuse me, Mr. President.

BARTLET

(to TOBY)

Take the meeting.

TOBY

I'm very happy to.

BARTLET

(to JOSH)

Yeah.

JOSH

Mr. President, there's a wrinkle in the situation in San Diego.

(CONTINUED)

LEO
What is it?

JOSH
You're not gonna believe it.

BARTLET
What?

SAM
They're claiming they're Christian
Evangelicals fleeing persecution.

BARTLET
(beat)
You're kidding me.

JOSH
They're seeking religious asylum.

BARTLET
(pause)
You're kidding me.

SAM
No.

BARTLET knows what this is about to turn into, and the
decision he's gonna have to make.

JOSH
The Christian community's gonna scream
that they've gotta stay, China's gonna
say send 'em back, INS is gonna say the
law's the law.
(beat)
This is a whole new thing.

BARTLET
Yeah.

13 OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO SCENE 12)

13

14 OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO SCENE 12)

14

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

15

TITLE:

Tuesday

C.J. (VO)

Well the INS conducts something called a
Credible Fear interview.

CUT TO:

16 INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

16

C.J.'s in the middle of a briefing--

C.J.

This is not a hearing on whether or not
to grant asylum, just a hearing to
determine if the detainee has a credible
fear that they'll be harmed if returned
to their country. Steve.

REPORTER #1

C.J., will the White House be meeting
with leaders from the Christian community
to hear their input.

C.J.

Yes we will. In the following days we'll
be meeting with the Reverend Al Caldwell,
members of Beijing's Embassy and INS
agents. The President has asked Josh
Lyman and Sam Seaborn to run these
meetings, so it's entirely possible that
by week's end we'll have alienated
Christians, China and our own government.

REPORTERS

C.J.--

C.J.

That's all I have on the refugees. I was
gonna release the list of recess
appointments, but I'm gonna wait a day. I
can tell you that the list has been sent
to the appropriate committee chairs, and
I imagine one of them will leak it to you
sometime this afternoon.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

C.J. (cont'd)

I'll also remind you that it's Thanksgiving week, which means the traditional presidential pardon, you know, of the chosen turkey. That will be Wednesday afternoon. Thursday morning, the President will make his Thanksgiving proclamation in the Rose Garden. Among the guests will be members of The Boys and Girls Clubs of America and members of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America.

*

REPORTER #2

Will you be leading them in song?

*

C.J.

I'm sorry?

*

*

REPORTER #2

The Press Secretary usually leads the kids in song.

*

*

*

C.J.

Yes. Of course. I will be leading them in song. For I am the Press Secretary. Thank you.

*

*

*

REPORTERS

Thank you/Thank you, C.J./etc.

C.J. steps off the podium--

C.J.

(to CAROL)

I gotta learn some songs.

She exits as we

CUT TO:

17 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

17

SAM and JOSH heading to a meeting.

JOSH

Don't bring it up at the meeting.

SAM

Josh--

JOSH

Don't bring it up at the meeting.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
The guy threatened to blow up the theatre
in the name of God.

JOSH
Yes.

SAM
A theatre with people in it.

JOSH
Yes.

SAM
But sending illegal Chinese immigrants
back to China is objectionable.

JOSH
Don't bring it up at the meeting.

SAM
It might slip out.

JOSH
Shove it back in.

SAM
Okay.

They walk into--

18 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

18

--where AL CALDWELL, MARY MARSH and JOHN LA SALLE are seated
with some AIDES.

JOSH
Good morning, Reverend Caldwell.

CALDWELL
Good morning. Josh. Sam.

SAM
Reverend.

LA SALLE
Good morning.

SAM
Good morning, sir.

JOSH
Good morning.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Josh, the White House will face considerable embarrassment if the President continues to maintain his stranglehold on indifference when it comes to persecuted Christians around the world.

JOSH

(beat)

Okay, we're done with good morning.

MARY

These are people from a country that oppresses Christians, the President has to grant their asylum request.

JOSH

The President doesn't grant asylum requests, the INS Judge does.

MARY

The INS Judge is gonna do what the President urges him to do, and if the President doesn't urge the INS Judge to grant the asylum, he's gonna wish he had.

JOSH

Mary, I swear to God, you're not gonna get anywhere in this building by threatening me.

SAM

Do we know that they were persecuted in China.

CALDWELL

Excuse me?

SAM

Do we know they were persecuted?

LA SALLE

They're Christians.

SAM

I believe that they're Christians, I'm asking if they were persecuted.

LA SALLE

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

How do you know?

MARY

They stuffed themselves in 20 by 20 foot container compartments for a month and a half. Why else would they be here?

JOSH

To make more money and see naked women.

MARY

Oh please.

JOSH

I'm not saying they necessarily wanted to see you, Mary.

CALDWELL

Leaders of the Fangcheg Church have been thrown into labor camps. Last August, three Taiwanese-born American evangelicals were arrested in the Henan province--

LA SALLE

--for, I'm quoting, "activities incompatible with tourist status under which they entered China."

CALDWELL

In other words, for spreading the Gospel. A hundred of their followers were detained and one woman was beaten by the police.

MARY

Chinese Catholics are being arrested by the wagon load for recognizing the Vatican's authority.

CALDWELL

An 82 year old Bishop was released after 30 years in prison and then arrested again, an 84 year old Bishop was tortured until he passed out.

MARY

He's now in a coma.

CALDWELL

China harasses Christians, Josh. The State Department says so.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CALDWELL (cont'd)

Amnesty International says so. I say so.
It is fact.

MARY

And the scores of millions of American
Christians and Christians around the
world, will not stand blithely by while
religious freedom is threatened.

SAM

Sure you will.

JOSH

Sam--

SAM

No, they will stand blithely by while
religious freedom is being threatened.
They're just not doing it this time.

JOSH

Okay--

MARY

Is this about the play?

SAM

Guy writes a play called *Apostles*, in
which Jesus Christ is gay, and you
protest. Fine. But when a guy threatens
to blow up the theatre, you guys are
nowhere to be heard from.

MARY

That play was disgusting.

SAM

So you're committed to religious freedom
for all people unless you don't like what
they have to say.

MARY

That's not--

SAM

Don't look now, but I think the
playwright's headed to China.

CALDWELL

(asking him to step outside)
Josh?

JOSH

Yeah.

*
*
*

*

(CONTINUED)

CALDWELL and JOSH step out into--

*

CUT TO:

19 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

19

JOSH
Sorry about that.

*
*

CALDWELL
No, Sam's right, and it's a point well
taken, but I don't want to get bogged
down in a Mary Marsh mud-fight.

*
*
*
*

JOSH
Yes sir.

*
*

CALDWELL
This is too important.

*
*

JOSH
Yes it is.

*
*

CALDWELL
I want you to know, I want the President
to know, that my church will pay out the
bond for each of the refugees.

*
*
*
*

JOSH
(beat)
Well, we might be talking about more
money than--

*
*
*
*

CALDWELL
I know how much we're talking about. My
church'll pay it. And if they won't, I
will.

*
*
*
*

JOSH
Okay, Reverend, thank you. I'll pass that
along.

*
*
*

CALDWELL
Thank you. Good morning, Toby.

*
*

TOBY's passing--

*

TOBY
Good morning, Reverend.

*
*

CALDWELL
You look determined.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

I am, sir.

CALDWELL

Good boy.

TOBY continues into--

20 OMITTED

20

21 OMITTED

21

22 INT. MURAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

22

Four SENATE AIDES are waiting for him--

AIDE #1

Toby, before we get to anything else, I want to object to the totally crappy way we were informed about this.

TOBY

You knew you were getting faxed the list of recess appointments.

AIDE #2

We didn't know at the last minute that you'd just slip in--

AIDE #1

Toby what makes you think you can just--

TOBY

Article II, Section 2. "The President shall have the power to fill all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session."

AIDE #2

You can't just slip her in there, Toby.

TOBY

Slip who in?

AIDE #3

Don't be cute.

TOBY

I can't help it.

(CONTINUED)

AIDE #2
McGarry's sister.

TOBY
It's Mr. McGarry and her name is Dr. Josephine McGarry. She has a Ph.D. in Education from Cornell, she's published many scholarly essays on public education, she was Superintendent of the Atlanta School District, servicing 58,000 students with some of the highest standardized test scores in the country. What in particular troubles the Senators you work for about her resume?

AIDE #1
I think you know.

TOBY
I do, but I'd like you to say it.

AIDE #3
She's anti-religion, Toby.

TOBY
Is she?

AIDE #3
Yes she is.

TOBY
She's on the Board of Visitors at her church and teaches Sunday mornings at the Immaculate Heart of Mary school.

AIDE #2
You know what we're talking about, Toby, she's against prayer.

TOBY
She's against prayer?

AIDE #3
Yes.

TOBY
Well I don't think she is, but the good news is the Constitution says she, you and I can't do anything about that.

AIDE #4
School prayer.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

Ahh.

AIDE #4

As she has published many times in her scholarly essays.

TOBY

You know who else is against it? The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Organized prayer in public schools is prohibited, and your problem with her is that while Superintendent, she enforced the law.

AIDE #2

A law that 70% say is wrong. 70% of the people say that--

TOBY

Laws don't work like that, Wayne, we don't ask for a show of hands. But you know what poll I like? The one that tells me the President goes up four to seven points every time he draws a line in the sand with the Christian right. We are so blessed by our enemies, we don't even have to come looking for you, you show up right to our door.

AIDE #1

You understand the Senate Republicans are gonna--

TOBY

No, I don't. Can you explain to me slowly using small words and visual aids?

AIDE #2

Toby--

TOBY

The Senate Republicans will hold up the confirmations of other nominees.

AIDE #3

This is an abuse of the recess appointment. It's there for convenience. It's not there to circumvent the Senate's Constitutional right to confirm nominees.

TOBY

Neither is the filibuster. I'll put down my gun when you put down yours.

(CONTINUED)

AIDE #2

The fact is if you don't think she'd be confirmed, then it's outrageous that you'd--

TOBY

No, what's outrageous is that it would never come to vote if we did it in session. There's no way the Senate could not confirm her. She's too qualified. This would never come to a vote. So hold up all the appointments you want, shut down the Government 'cause a teacher did as she was told. You'll have given us a second term and we won't even have to leave the building. Not because I'm right and you're wrong, though I am and you are, but just because I'm better at this than you.

AIDE #4

Not this time.

TOBY

I'm sorry?

AIDE #4

You're not better this time.

The AIDE puts a large manila envelope on the table.

AIDE #4

This is a picture of her.

TOBY

Doing what?

AIDE #4

Enforcing the law.

TOBY picks up the envelope as we

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - DAY

23

TOBY stands in front of Leo's desk as LEO looks over a photograph on a page that's been cut out of a newspaper.

TOBY

It was a home game. There was an organized prayer. She's breaking it up.

LEO

Yes she is.

TOBY

It's not good, but it's not, you know--

LEO

These are high school students. Two of them are on their knees praying. While being handcuffed. With my sister standing next to the cop. Whose hand is on his night stick.

TOBY

He's resting it on his night stick.

LEO

I'm sure that explanation will appear in the caption.

TOBY

Leo--

LEO

One of the students is wearing his marching band uniform. One of the students is black.

TOBY

Listen--

LEO

And you say it's not good.

TOBY

Yeah look--

LEO

A penetrating diagnosis from the White House Communications Director.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

It's not like we weren't aware of the incident.

LEO

We didn't know there was art.

TOBY

It's a local paper.

LEO

It's not local anymore.

TOBY

I can save this.

LEO

Does she know she was submitted?

TOBY

Yes.

LEO

How?

TOBY

I called her.

LEO

Toby--

TOBY

I can save this.

LEO

(calling)
Margaret!

TOBY

Leo--

LEO

Football game, high school, marching band, on their knees, the only thing breaking up Norman Rockwell are the cops, the handcuffs, the night stick and my sister.

MARGARET steps in--

MARGARET

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

LEO
Get Josephine on the phone.

MARGARET
Yeah.

LEO
I begged you to slow down with this nomination.

TOBY
The post needed to be--

LEO
The post did not desperately need to be filled. Neither the economy nor national security nor infrastructure will collapse without an Assistant Secretary of Primary and Secondary Education.

TOBY
It brings the problem front and center.

LEO
Great, and what prize do we get for that?

TOBY
Leo--

LEO
What prize do we get for bringing it front and center?

TOBY says nothing...MARGARET comes back in--

MARGARET
Leo?

LEO
Yeah.

MARGARET
Your sister.

TOBY
I'll be in my office.

LEO
It brings your problem front and center,
Toby. Leave the newspaper.

*
*

TOBY exits as LEO picks up the phone--

(CONTINUED)

LEO
Hey Jo.

CUT TO:

24 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY 24

TITLE:

Wednesday

CUT TO:

25 INT. BULLPEN - DAY 25

C.J. comes in--

C.J.
Donna.

DONNA
Hey C.J.

C.J.
Could I borrow you for just a minute.

JOSH comes out of his office--

JOSH
Hey, C.J.

C.J.
You know I'd love to stand around and
talk with you, Josh, but I have a turkey
pardoning in five minutes.

JOSH
I thought that was tomorrow.

C.J.
No, tomorrow's the singing.

JOSH
You're singing?

C.J.
I'm leading the children in song.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
Excellent.

*
*

C.J.
Yes. I need Donna for a moment.

JOSH
You need help with the song?

C.J.:
I don't need help with the song. Donna?

DONNA
(to JOSH)
You're meeting with the INS guys in Sam's
office.

*
*

JOSH
Thank you.

DONNA follows C.J. down the hall toward her office--

DONNA
What do you need?

C.J.
I need help with the song.

DONNA
Isn't it the usual song?

C.J.
There's a usual song?

DONNA
"We Gather Together."

C.J.
That's the song.

DONNA
That's the usual song.

C.J.
So you know it.

DONNA
Everybody knows it.

C.J.
I don't know it.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

Didn't you go to elementary school?

C.J.

(beat)

Yes. Right before being a National Merit Scholar.

DONNA

The madrigals'll know the song.

C.J.

The madrigals?

DONNA

A couple of guys wearing costumes and playing the lute. It's no problem.

C.J.

You're not the one conducting a musical on CNN.

DONNA

You want me to teach you the song?

C.J.

Yes.

DONNA

Now?

C.J.

Not now. Right now I have, you know, actual serious work to do.

C.J. walks into--

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

26

--where the two turkeys are in a small, baby's playpen in the middle of the floor with a food dish and a water dish.

C.J.

Okay, showtime guys.

C.J.'s getting a camera flash off her desk as she talks...

C.J.

I've observed you under a number of conditions and this is the final. I can't have you wiggin' out in the President's face, I just don't like the photo. So--

(CONTINUED)

C.J. flashes a bunch of times--

C.J.

You both did fine. Troy, I want you to know it was neck and neck but I'm giving it to Eric. You were in it right 'till the end, but it's the flapping thing you've got going on. I'll tell you what's of some concern to me. That I've been talking out loud this whole time. That's very unsettling. Okay, Eric, here we go.

She points to him and waves like a traffic cop--

C.J.

Here we go.

DONNA steps in--

DONNA

The guy said to support him under his hind quarters.

C.J.

Well I don't know where his hind quarters are and I'm not gonna look that hard.

(to the turkey)

C'mon, here we go.

CUT TO:

27 OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO SCENE 26)

27

28 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - DAY

28

BERTRAM

Passage usually costs anywhere from twenty to forty thousand dollars.

JOSH

Forty thousand dollars buys 'em a spot in the container?

BERTRAM

Yeah.

SAM

How do these people have \$40,000?

JOSH

They don't.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

GARDNER
That's the problem.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

They have to pay off the smugglers once they get here, so they become indentured servants.

SAM

Sweatshops?

BERTRAM

Drugs, prostitution.

JOSH

You should know that Al Caldwell and the Christian League have offered to pay their bond.

GARDNER

Al Caldwell and the Christian League should know it's not uncommon for them to be coached.

SAM

On religious persecution?

BERTRAM

It's a good alibi.

(beat)

Listen, it's not for me to say, but you gotta be serious about illegal immigration and you gotta do these things within existing laws.

JOSH

Thanks for coming by.

BERTRAM/GARDNER

Good seeing you/Take it easy/etc.

GARDNER and BERTRAM have exited.

SAM

A lot of them left their families. Two months on the water in a container. Dead bodies in there. They had to want it pretty bad.

After a moment, JOSH nods...

CUT TO:

29 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

29

C.J. steps in--

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
Mr. President?

BARTLET
Yeah.

C.J.
We're all set.

BARTLET
What am I doing?

C.J.
Pardoning a turkey.

BARTLET
(beat)
Okay.

CHARLIE comes through another door carrying a box--

CHARLIE
Mr. President.

BARTLET
Excellent.

CHARLIE
I think you'll like this.

BARTLET
The Messermeister. Meridian 3000 series.
One piece forged blade, riveted pom
handles.

CHARLIE
Terrific.

BARTLET
I don't like the handles.

CHARLIE
Okay.

CHARLIE takes the box and heads off as SAM and JOSH come in--

JOSH
Mr. President.

BARTLET
How's it going?

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Sir, we've taken a couple of dozen meetings in the last two days.

BARTLET

You met with Chinese Embassy officials?

JOSH

Last night. They say--

BARTLET

Christians aren't persecuted in China. Since they're not oppressed, they don't qualify for refugee status--

JOSH

--under U.S. or U.N. conditions, yeah.

SAM

They also make the point that they broke Chinese law by leaving the country illegally and they should be sent back to their country of origin.

BARTLET

It's a fair point.

JOSH

The INS agents also feel it's not uncommon in these situations for the refugees to, how do I put it, feign faith.

BARTLET

Yeah, they'll be coached.

JOSH

So how do you tell the difference between--

BARTLET

You guys know what a shibboleth is?

SAM

It's a catchphrase isn't it?

JOSH

A cliché.

BARTLET

It comes from the Bible. "Then said now unto him, 'Say now shibboleth';
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET (cont'd)
and he said 'sibboleth', for he could not
frame to pronounce it right." It was a
password. A way for the armies to
distinguish true Israelites from
imposters sent across the river Jordan by
the enemy.

JOSH
Sir--

BARTLET
I'm having one of the Chinese refugees
flown here. I'll meet with him tonight.

C.J. comes in--

C.J.
Mr. President? I can't, you know,
indefinitely with a turkey--

BARTLET
Yeah.

JOSH
Excuse me. Mr. President. What are you
going to ask the Chinese refugee?

BARTLET
(smiles)
I'm gonna ask him to say shibboleth.

BARTLET walks out as we

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

30 **EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT** 30

MARGARET (VO)

Leo?

31 **INT. LEO'S OFFICE - NIGHT** 31

LEO

She's here?

MARGARET

Yeah.

LEO

Okay.

MARGARET steps out and after a moment, JOSEPHINE steps in.

JOSEPHINE

I understand they've already started beating the drums over me.

LEO

Yeah.

JOSEPHINE

Well I don't think I need to tell you that I'm not gonna shrink from a fight.

LEO

No, you don't. In fact, you look for 'em.

JOSEPHINE

Just like my brother.

LEO

I don't look for fights, Josey, there are enough of 'em that look for me.

JOSEPHINE

Leo--

LEO

And I'm trying to stage manage an undisciplined White House through what I would say was a difficult time except I haven't experienced an easy one yet.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

JOSEPHINE

This is gonna be a big victory for us,
Leo. I will have support lined up from
the AFT and the NEA. I will have--

*
*
*
*

LEO

Josey, I want you to withdraw your name
from consideration.

JOSEPHINE

(beat)
Why?

LEO

You feel you can do more as
Superintendent in Atlanta.

JOSEPHINE

No, I mean why--

LEO

'Cause the President won't and even if he
would it'd look bad.

JOSEPHINE

I'm asking why you want--

LEO

They have a newspaper picture.

JOSEPHINE

Of what?

LEO

You know of what.

JOSEPHINE

(pause)
There were a lot of pictures, Leo.

LEO

This one is special. This one is game's
over.

JOSEPHINE

(pause)
The handcuffs.

LEO

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

JOSEPHINE

And you wouldn't even consider sticking
by me.

LEO

A few years ago, on a campaign swing
through the South, I met a stringer
photographer named Odabee Jones. It was
an unusual name and so I've remembered
it. He told me he had you to thank for
starting his career in photo-journalism
'cause you'd give him a heads-up when
there was gonna be something worth
shooting.

JOSEPHINE

Leo, what in God's name has you thinking
about--

LEO

Look at the photo credit on the picture.

JOSEPHINE does...

LEO

You called a photographer. You wanted a
picture taken of that. Those kids are
commendable. In this day and age? Those
kids are phenomenal. Now we have laws and
they're difficult and they have to be
enforced and it's right that they're
enforced, *but we do not strut.*

(beat)

Ever.

JOSEPHINE

(pause)

Is there something you want me to sign?

LEO puts a piece of paper in front of her. He looks up and
sees TOBY standing quietly in the doorway.

JOSEPHINE

Anything else?

LEO

Kiss your kids hello for me.

JOSEPHINE walks past TOBY out the door.

TOBY

She'll get over it.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

She hasn't gotten over my making her
return the stolen Milk Duds.

TOBY

You were right.

LEO

I know.

TOBY

Josey was the wrong face to put on this.

LEO

Yes.

TOBY

But I'll tell you why it should be front
and center. It's not the First Amendment,
it's not religious freedom, it's not
Church and State, it's not abstract.

LEO

What is it?

TOBY

It's the fourth-grader who gets his ass
kicked at recess 'cause he sat out the
voluntary prayer in homeroom. It's
another way of making kids different from
other kids. And they're required by law
to be there. That's why you want it front
and center. The fourth grader? That's the
prize.

LEO

(pause)

What'd they do to you?

TOBY kind of shrugs. It's not important and he doesn't want to
talk about it...

GINGER comes in from the Oval Office--

GINGER

Leo?

LEO

Yeah.

(to TOBY)

You're right about that part. That part
needs to be talked about more.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY
It does.

 LEO
Okay.

 TOBY
What are you doing for dinner tomorrow,
'cause Josh and Sam and I are watching
the game.

 LEO
I'm with the First Family.

 TOBY
Okay.

LEO starts into the Oval Office--

 TOBY
Hey, Leo, do me a favor, don't tell the
President--

 LEO
The President could honestly give a damn
what you guys are doing tomorrow, Toby.

 TOBY
Yeah.

LEO walks into--

32 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

32

 BARTLET
Good.

 LEO
Did we get an interpreter?

 BARTLET
He speaks English. He's a chemistry
professor.

 LEO
Yeah?

 BARTLET
There was a while there I wanted to be a
chemistry professor.

 LEO
What happened?

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET
I never actually studied chemistry.

LEO
A lot of these college chemistry
departments are really demanding that
way.

BARTLET
Yeah.

MRS. LANDINGHAM
Mr. President?

MRS. LANDINGHAM escorts JHIN WEI and a couple of INS AGENTS
into the room.

BARTLET
Jhin Wei?

JHIN WEI
Yes sir.

BARTLET
I'm Jed Bartlet, this is Leo McGarry.
Thank you for coming all this way.

JHIN WEI
Yes sir.

LEO
(to the INS AGENTS)
Fellas, would you mind waiting outside?

The INS AGENTS step out.

BARTLET
Would you care to sit down?

JHIN WEI hesitates...

BARTLET
It's perfectly all right.

JHIN WEI sits.

BARTLET
There are sandwiches here, and if you get
hungry, you should feel free to eat as
much as you please.

JHIN WEI
Yes sir.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

There are questions as to the veracity of your claim to asylum.

JHIN WEI

Yes sir.

BARTLET

How did you become a Christian?

JHIN WEI

I began attending a house church with my wife in Fujian. Eventually I was baptized.

BARTLET

How do you practice?

JHIN WEI

We share Bibles, we don't have enough. We sing hymns, we hear sermons, we recite the Lord's prayer. We are charitable.

BARTLET

Who's the head of your church?

JHIN WEI

The head of our parish is an 84 year old man named Wen Ling. He's been beaten and imprisoned many times. The head of our church is Jesus Christ.

BARTLET

Can you name any of Jesus' apostles? If you can't, that's okay, I usually can't remember the names of my kids. Or for that matter--

JHIN WEI

(in English)

Peter, Andrew, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, Thaddeus, Judas, Simon, and James.

*

BARTLET

(beat)

You forgot one.

JHIN WEI

(smiling)

The other James.

*

BARTLET smiles...

*

(CONTINUED)

JHIN WEI

Mr. President, Christianity isn't demonstrated through a recitation of facts. You're seeking evidence of faith. A whole-hearted acceptance of God's promise of a better world. "For we hold that man is justified by faith alone" is what St. Paul said. Justified by faith alone. Faith is the true--
(thinking of the word in English)
...um...I'm trying...Shibboleth. Faith is the true shibboleth.

*
*
*

BARTLET

(pause)
Yes it is.
(beat)
And you, sir, just said the magic word in more ways than one. Thank you, it was a pleasure to meet you.

*

JHIN WEI

Thank you, Mr. President.

*

He's escorted out by MRS. LANDINGHAM. After a long moment...

*

LEO

We're trying to sell more 747s to China, already a big customer. We want China to crack down on violators of American copyrights. We're trying to get China to negotiate a settlement with Tibet.

BARTLET

(beat)
Right.

LEO

(beat)
Right.

BARTLET

We don't have to grant asylum.

LEO

If you're suggesting what I think you are, you should know it's happened before.

BARTLET

(beat)
Where are they?

(CONTINUED)

LEO

An INS detention facility in Otay Mesa. They're being guarded by INS agents aided by members of the 22nd Division of the California National Guard.

BARTLET

Not the Coast Guard?

*
*

LEO

No.

*
*

BARTLET

(pause)

Before...When it happened before...How did it work?

LEO

Well...you don't want to piss off China...and you don't want to send 'em back...so you gotta ask yourself...how secure is the INS detention facility?

BARTLET looks at him...then smiles...

BARTLET

(calling)

Mrs. Landingham?

MRS. LANDINGHAM

(entering)

Yes sir.

BARTLET

I need to talk to the Governor of California.

CUT TO:

33 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

33

TITLE:

Thursday Morning
Thanksgiving

34 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

34

C.J. comes through--

C.J.

Carol.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

Yeah.

C.J.

We're starting in five minutes, you can
move the press to the Rose Garden.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

Yeah.

TOBY comes along--

TOBY

Hey, Toscanini--

C.J.

I'm busy.

TOBY

You learning the song?

C.J.

I know the song.

TOBY

You don't know the song.

C.J.

(reciting--proud of her
memorization)

We gather together to ask the Lord's
blessing. He chastens and hastens His
will to make known.

TOBY

You know what it means?

C.J.

I don't have to know what it means.

TOBY

Listen, I don't know what you're doing
for dinner tonight, but Josh and Sam and
I are gonna--

C.J.

It's about damn time you asked me. I've
been sitting here for two weeks, turning
down all kinds of very, frankly,
glamorous invitations from people I like
a lot more than you. You can't ask a girl
at the last minute to just--

TOBY

If you can't come, that's--

C.J.

(excited)

I can come, I can come, I can come!

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

Good.

C.J.

Should I bring anything?

TOBY

Yeah. Do you know how to, you know, cook food?

C.J.

We're in the Rose Garden in five minutes.

C.J. walks into--

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

35

--where DONNA is standing with MORTON HORN.

DONNA

C.J.?

C.J.

Yeah.

DONNA

This is Morton Horn. He's from Jasper Farms. He's here to take one of the turkeys back.

C.J.

(beat)

What do you mean?

MORTON

I've gotta take back one of the turkeys.

C.J.

No, no. These turkeys are going to a petting zoo in Delaware.

MORTON

One of them is.

C.J.

Yeah, but I'm gonna send both of them.

DONNA

C.J., Jasper Farms donated one turkey, and then the other one--

C.J.

Right. But I'm gonna take 'em both.

(CONTINUED)

MORTON

No, I gotta take a turkey back.

C.J.

I'm gonna buy him from you. What's he,
thirty bucks?

MORTON

These turkeys are 275 dollars.

C.J.

For a turkey?

MORTON

They're specially raised.

C.J.

At the Waldorf?

MORTON

Ma'am--

C.J.

I'll pay it.

MORTON

It's already been sold.

C.J.

Give 'em a different turkey.

MORTON

All the turkeys have been sold.

DONNA

C.J.--

MORTON

Ma'am, it was my understanding that one
of the turkeys was to be pardoned, and
the other one sent back to Jasper Farms.

C.J.

Yes, and I chose Eric 'cause Troy doesn't
like to be touched, which surely we're
not going to execute him for.

MORTON

Ma'am, I have a job and--

C.J.

Come with me, please.

(CONTINUED)

MORTON

Ma'am?

C.J.

Come with me.

MORTON follows C.J. out of the office as we

CUT TO:

36 INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - DAY

36

BARTLET pops his head out the door--

BARTLET

Mrs. Landingham, can I look at a copy of the Thanksgiving proclamation?

MRS. LANDINGHAM

Sir, why don't you use the intercom?

BARTLET

'Cause--

MRS. LANDINGHAM

'Cause you don't know how to use the intercom.

BARTLET

I was standing at the door.

MRS. LANDINGHAM

Maybe after the ceremony you can get one of the fourth graders to come in and show you how to use the intercom.

BARTLET

Can I look at a copy of--

MRS. LANDINGHAM

Sam's bringing it.

CHARLIE comes in with a box in a bag--

BARTLET

Whatchya got, Charles.

CHARLIE

A winner, Mr. President.

CHARLIE follows BARTLET into--

37 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

37

CHARLIE

The 1985 Komin Yomada, made in Japan from the best materials available.

BARTLET

Lighter weight blades.

CHARLIE

Which facilitates cutting and reduces user fatigue.

BARTLET

I once test-drove the Komin Yomada.

CHARLIE

And?

BARTLET

Not wild about it. How 'bout--

CHARLIE

Okay, Mr. President? I say this with all possible respect, but each of these knives, you know, cuts meat. Why is it important that--

*
*

BARTLET

Because it's something we pass on. It's something with a history. So we can say, "My father gave this to me, and his father gave it to him, and now I'm giving it to you."

*

CHARLIE

(beat)

Well, okay sir, but if that's true, then why don't you already have one.

BARTLET

I do have one.

CHARLIE

Why do you need a new one?

BARTLET

I'm giving mine away.

CHARLIE

To who?

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET
Whom.

CHARLIE
To whom?

BARTLET
Funny you should ask.

BARTLET's gotten out of his desk a very old wooden box with a ribbon around it.

BARTLET
Charlie, my father gave this to me, and his father gave it to him, and now I'm giving it to you.
(beat)
Take a look.

CHARLIE opens the box...

BARTLET
The fully tapered bolster allows for sharpening the entire edge of the blade.

CHARLIE
It says "P.R."
(beat)
I thought I knew 'em all, but I don't recognize the manufacturer.

BARTLET
Yeah, these were made for my family by a Boston silversmith named Paul Revere.

CHARLIE's eyes snap up to BARTLET...C.J. steps in...

C.J.
Mr. President?

BARTLET
I'm proud of you, Charlie.

CHARLIE
Thank you, sir.
(beat)
Five minutes in the Rose Garden.

BARTLET
Yeah.

CHARLIE takes his priceless gift and exits...

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
Mr. President?

BARTLET
Yes.

C.J.
Hi.

BARTLET
Hi.

C.J.
I'm sorry to ask you this, sir--

BARTLET
It's not too late to stop yourself.

C.J.
I need you to pardon a turkey.

BARTLET
I already pardoned a turkey.

C.J.
I need you to pardon another one.

BARTLET
Didn't I do it right?

C.J.
You did it great, but I need you to come out here and pardon another one.

BARTLET
Aren't I gonna get a reputation for being soft on turkeys?

C.J.
Sir, can you come out here and just get this over with.

BARTLET
No, I'm not gonna just get this--what the hell--

C.J.
They sent me two turkeys. The more photo-friendly of the two gets a presidential pardon and a full life at a children's zoo. The runner-up gets eaten.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET
If the Oscars were like that, I'd watch.

C.J.
Mr. President--

BARTLET
Just buy the second turkey.

C.J.
They already sold it.

BARTLET
Then there's not much I can do.

C.J.
You can pardon the turkey.

BARTLET
The turkey hasn't committed a crime.

C.J.
Sir--

BARTLET
C.J., I have, really, no judicial jurisdiction over birds.

C.J.
Yes, I know that. And you know that. But Morton Horn doesn't know that.

BARTLET
Who's--

C.J.
The high school kid from the turkey place.

BARTLET
He's in high school and he doesn't know I can't pardon his turkey.

C.J.
That's what I'm betting.

BARTLET
C.J., if we don't, and I mean completely, overhaul public education in this country--

C.J.

Yes sir, but maybe this isn't the best time to--

BARTLET

Where the hell is he?

C.J.

Right out here.

She leads him out into--

38 INT. MRS. LANDINGHAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

38

--where DONNA is standing with MORTON and a turkey.

C.J.

Morton, this is President Bartlet.

BARTLET

Hey, Morton.

MORTON

Wow.

BARTLET

Well said. Is that the turkey?

DONNA

Yes.

BARTLET

You're pardoned.

C.J.

Sir--

BARTLET

What do you want?

C.J.

A little, you know--

BARTLET

By the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States, I hereby...pardon you.

MORTON

Okay.

BARTLET

No, it's not okay!

*

(CONTINUED)

C.J.

Sir--

BARTLET

Morton, I can't pardon a turkey. If you think I can pardon a turkey, then you have got to go back to your school and insist that you be better prepared to go out in the world.

DONNA

You can't pardon a turkey? *

BARTLET

No. But I'll tell you what I can do. I'm drafting that turkey into military service. In the meantime, Mrs. Landingham's gonna be drafting a check which'll have my signature on it and the folks can buy themselves a Butterball.

MORTON

Okay.

C.J.

Donna, would you take Troy back to his pen and show Morton to the door. Remember to support his hind quarters.

BARTLET

What's wrong with his-- *

C.J.

The turkey's hind quarters.

BARTLET

I'm still waiting to read the thing.

SAM and JOSH coming in--

SAM

Right here.

BARTLET

Let's go in.

C.J.

Sir--

BARTLET

Gimme two minutes.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

C.J.

I'm gonna step out there and begin the singing and lute playing.

BARTLET

Whatever.

BARTLET, SAM and JOSH have gone into--

39 INT. OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

39

JOSH

I'm assuming you've heard.

BARTLET

By the way, the Latin word for yam is "dioscorea."

JOSH

You've heard?

BARTLET

About the Chinese refugees?

SAM

They escaped.

BARTLET

I know, can you believe it?

JOSH

No, as a matter of fact neither one of us can believe it, sir.

BARTLET

That detention center was being guarded by the 22nd Division of the California National Guard. Now what does it say about our reserve army--

SAM

--that 73 men, women and children who haven't eaten in two months staged a prison break?

Through the open door onto the portico, we HEAR the sound of two amplified lutes starting to play...

BARTLET

(pause)

Gimme the thing.

SAM hands BARTLET the speech...

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

(reading)

"Well over three and a half centuries ago, strengthened by faith and bound by a common desire for liberty, a small band of Pilgrims sought out a place in the New World where they could worship according to their own beliefs.

(pause)

Now, therefore, I, Josiah Bartlet, President of the United States, by virtue of the authority and laws vested in me, do hereby proclaim this to be a National Day of Thanksgiving."

BARTLET nods at SAM...

SAM

I'll see you out there, sir.

SAM exits out the portico...and now we HEAR the kids singing...JOSH is staring at BARTLET...

JOSH

You asked the Governor to stand down the 22nd Division.

BARTLET

And call in the Red Cross.

(pause)

We didn't do anything illegal, you're not involved in a massive criminal conspiracy. There was no way I was sending 'em back and we needed to help China save face. So now they can tell their people that the mighty American military was over-powered by--

JOSH

Yeah.

(beat...smiles)

So the guy passed the test, huh?

*
*

BARTLET

You think I would send him back if he failed catechism? Let me tell you something: We can be the world's policeman, we can be the world's bank, the world's factory, the world's farm...what does it mean if we're not also...

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

(pause)

They made it to the New World, Josh.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET (cont'd)

(pause)

And you know what I get to do now?

(beat)

I get to proclaim a National Day of
Thanksgiving.

VOICE (OS)

(over the singing)

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, the
President of the United States.

BARTLET

This is a great job.

And BARTLET and JOSH head outside as we HEAR

SINGING

"We gather together to ask the Lord's
blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to
make known;
The wicked oppressing, now cease from
distressing;
Sing praises to His name, He forgets
not His own."

FADE TO BLACK

END OF SHOW