



# **The West Wing**

Shutdown

Episode Eight

THE WEST WING

"Shutdown"

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THE WEST WING

"Shutdown"

Script Revision History

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| 10/06/03    | FULL BLUE    | 1-64   |
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THE WEST WING

"Shutdown"

CAST LIST

PRESIDENT JOSIAH BARTLET  
LEO MCGARRY  
JOSH LYMAN  
TOBY ZIEGLER  
C.J. CREGG  
CHARLIE YOUNG  
DONNA MOSS  
ABIGAIL BARTLET  
WILL BAILEY

HAFFLEY  
BONNIE  
ROYCE  
ANGELA BLAKE  
CAROL  
MARGARET  
KATIE  
MARK  
VP ROBERT RUSSELL  
CRICKET  
\*  
GEORGE  
CHARLAYNE

CONGRESSMAN RAMIREZ  
SENATOR LINDSAY  
CONGRESSMAN JAFFE  
BRET  
TOURIST  
SECRET SERVICE AGENT RANDY  
DEM PUNDIT (ON TV)  
REP PUNDIT (ON TV)  
NEWSCASTER (V.O.)  
SECRET SERVICE AGENT

THE WEST WING

"Shutdown"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

WHITE HOUSE

Roosevelt Room  
Toby's Office  
Josh's Bullpen  
Corridors  
Oval Office  
Lobby  
Press Briefing Room  
Leo's Office  
Residence/Family Room  
\*  
Josh's Office  
Residence/Kitchen  
Residence/Hallway  
C.J.'s Office  
Leo's Outer Office

CAPITOL BUILDING

Republican Conference Room  
Hallway  
Conference Room/Ante Room

NEIGHBORHOOD SPORTS BAR

BARTLET'S LIMO

EXTERIORS

PEBBLE BEACH - DAY

\*

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - DAY

THE WEST WING

"Shutdown"

TIME SPAN

This episode takes place over four days:

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Scenes 1-21:    | Night One |
| Scenes 22-34:   | Day Two   |
| Scenes 34A-37:  | Night Two |
| Scenes 37A-55A: | Day Three |
| Scenes 56-64:   | Day Four  |

"Shutdown"

TEASER

As the RECAP ENDS we find ourselves BACK in:

1 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - NIGHT

1

Where we left off at the end of Episode Seven. HAFFLEY, ROYCE, RUSSELL, ANGELA, LEO, DONNA, BARTLET, assistants.

BARTLET

No.

Uh-oh. Leo sneaks a look to Bartlet. What's he doing?

HAFFLEY

There is no altering this offer, Mr. President.

BARTLET

I said no.

That's not what Haffley was expecting. He takes a moment, regroupes as Angela looks to Leo, what is Bartlet doing?

HAFFLEY

Let's be clear, sir. We cannot, we will not vote to keep on footing the bill. You will be held responsible for shutting down the Federal government.

Bartlet stands. Takes a moment. Finally:

BARTLET

Then shut it down.

Bartlet stands there, facing Haffley. There's a long moment. It's the second after a gun shot's been fired. Is Haffley going to respond? Is the meeting over? No one dares speak. The Speaker breaks the silence when he stands.

HAFFLEY

Mr. President...

The other Republicans follow Haffley's lead, begin to gather their things, still half-expecting the meeting to resume.

BARTLET

Mr. Speaker...

(CONTINUED)

1

CONTINUED:

1

But the meeting is over. Bartlet turns, heads back for the Oval. Haffley and the Republican Leadership pull on coats, start for the door. Angela lingers, hoping Leo will give her a clue what comes next. Nothing. Run.

CUT TO:

2

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - SAME TIME (FORMERLY TOBY'S OFFICE)

2

JOSH is there waiting, WILL too.

\*

JOSH

Did you know that Chilean Sea Bass is neither Chilean nor Sea Bass.

Will not really listening.

\*

JOSH

Environmental Trust report. They haven't had any luck curtailing over-fishing, so their new tack is to reduce demand by enforcing FDA labeling.

WILL

What's its real name?

JOSH

Patagonian Toothfish.

They wait some more and then, BONNIE sticks her head in:

BONNIE

Here they come.

Will's up and on his way to the hallway --

3

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

3

Josh follows.

\*

WILL

Six minutes.

\*

JOSH

Hmm?

WILL

The meeting lasted six minutes. That's good, right...?

\*

The Repubs exit the Roosevelt Room, heading for the lobby. It's like Main Street in Dodge City.

(CONTINUED)



3

Everyone stays out of the way as the Black Hats ride through.  
One look at their expressions and--

\*

WILL  
Maybe not --

Donna comes out, trailing the Republicans, shaking her head.  
Toby wanders in from his hallway.

\*

\*

DONNA  
There's no agreement.

JOSH  
How far apart are we?

DONNA  
They're leaving the building.

WILL  
Without a continuing resolution?

DONNA  
Haffley said the only way he could sell  
it was with a three percent cut.

Russell comes out, looking for Will.

TOBY  
We had a deal at one percent.

JOSH  
He's bluffing.

RUSSELL  
We'll never know because the President  
ended the meeting. Will...

And the VP takes off. Will looks back. What happened?

JOSH  
It's only eight-thirty. We'll get a deal  
before midnight.

DONNA  
I don't know.

The murmurs in the halls are growing to a dull roar as the  
news spreads like wildfire.

TOBY  
I'm gonna--

JOSH  
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

Toby and Josh take off. Leaving Donna as we --

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDORS - SAME TIME

Haffley, Royce and the others arrive at the exit.

ROYCE  
I hate November.

HAFFLEY  
No, no. Christmas came early this year.

Haffley opens his umbrella and confidently steps out as we --

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - SAME TIME

Bartlet has gone back to his desk and is scanning the Evening Intelligence Briefing. Leo enters, followed by Angela.

LEO  
So you want to talk about what just happened.

BARTLET  
You were there.

Bartlet closes the Intel Briefing Book. Gathers his things.

BARTLET  
Make sure Nancy sees me in the morning about the IMETs to Indonesia. I don't want any training east of Kupang. Anything else?

LEO  
We need a continuing resolution by midnight or 940,000 Federal employees aren't gonna show up in the morning.

BARTLET  
You give 'em your shirt and they want your belt.

ANGELA  
We gotta get them back in and --

BARTLET  
Not tonight.

(CONTINUED)

Bartlet looks at his watch as well.

BARTLET  
Damn. I probably missed the first quarter.

LEO  
Sorry?

BARTLET  
Providence's gonna get a whoopin' from my  
fighting Irish.

And he's gone, leaving Leo and Angela in the middle of the  
Oval Office. There's a knock. CHARLIE enters, looks around.

CHARLIE  
Is he coming back?

LEO  
What do you need?

CHARLIE  
Toby and Josh are here.

Leo nods. Toby and Josh enter. Josh looks at Angela  
accusingly.

JOSH  
What the hell happened?

ANGELA  
Haffley asked for three percent.

TOBY  
Now what?

LEO  
(deep breath)  
We shut it down.

SMASH CUT TO:

6 OMITTED

6

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 INT. WHITE HOUSE LOBBY - NIGHT

7

On our way to the lobby filled with anxious personnel, Leo passes a monitor where Haffley is already making his case.

HAFFLEY (ON TV)

I went to the White House to pass a continuing resolution while we work through our differences. But this President couldn't find three percent...

The Lobby is packed with White House Personnel. Leo is mobbed with questions as he makes his way to the front through the confused staffers, stands on a chair.

LEO

Listen up! Hey...!

MARGARET signals for everyone to get quiet.

CHARLIE

Hey, everybody... Shut up...!

LEO

(they finally do)

Thank you. Effective immediately, the U.S. government is shut down.

(that gets 'em talking again)

...We have no operating budget, so all nonessential personnel, anyone below Special Assistant, non-National Security and Public Safety, go home until further notice. The President thanks you for your hard work and service. Questions...

DONNA

How long do you think it'll last?

LEO

Hours probably, maybe a day.

MARGARET

Maybe a couple of days?

LEO

Maybe.

MARGARET

Maybe a couple of weeks?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

LEO  
It'll last as long as it lasts.

CHARLIE  
How will we know when to come back?

LEO  
Watch the news. Listen guys, I'm sorry.

In the back of the room, Toby and C.J. turn away from the chaos, start for C.J.'s Office.

C.J.  
Are they coming back tonight?

TOBY  
I sure as hell hope so.

CAROL catches up to them, hands C.J. a memo. C.J. reads--

C.J.  
Amtrak, the courts, Federal prisons,  
Border Patrol, National Weather Service,  
all open. And meat inspectors will  
remain on the job --

TOBY  
Nothing jeopardizes the sanctity of the  
American Hamburger.

C.J.  
The EPA's suspending 60% of their factory  
inspections. Good news for polluters.

TOBY  
Sell me.

C.J.  
"We had agreed to a one percent cut on a  
thirty day continuing resolution but the  
Speaker pulled a bait and switch--"

TOBY  
One percent, two percent, what's so  
unreasonable about three percent?

C.J.  
Three percent equals... "x" dollars,  
which is "y" flu vaccinations, and "z"  
school lunches. It's more convincing  
with numbers. Carol!

Carol is still right behind them.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL  
I'm gonna need a minute because we just sent Research home. And um, we just sent me home too.

TOBY  
I'll get you the numbers.

They arrive in C.J.'s, Haffley's on the monitors. \*

HAFFLEY (ON TV)  
The President thinks we can restart this economy through more government spending.

C.J.  
He's on the front lawn?

CAROL  
He wrangled reporters from our room.

C.J.  
Is there anyone left?

CAROL  
...a couple.

C.J.  
Should I wait for Haffley to finish? \*

TOBY  
We gotta start reclaiming ground.

C.J.  
Okay. But I need numbers fast. Maybe some garlic, a crucifix.

She heads out for the briefing. Carol turns to Toby. \*

CAROL  
What should I--

TOBY  
Go home.

Toby turns to watch Haffley on the monitor as we-- \*

HAFFLEY (ON TV)  
...It'll explode the deficit and do nothing to ease the burdens of hardworking taxpayers who are already having trouble making ends meet... \*

CUT TO: \*

8 INT. PRESS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

8

C.J. walks to the podium.

C.J.

Good evening, everybody. Katie, get back here. Let's start with the good news. National security and public safety will not be affected...

As the few remaining Reporters settle back into seats we --

CUT BACK TO:

9 OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO SCENE 7)

9 \*

9A INT. WEST WING CORRIDOR - NIGHT

9A \*

Josh and Donna on the move, headed back for Josh's bullpen.

DONNA

This is so unfair, we're already understaffed.

JOSH

Yeah.

DONNA

I've canceled tomorrow's meetings with SBA and the FCC--

JOSH

You do realize you're not a special assistant.

DONNA

Thanks for reminding me. How far out do you want me to cancel--

JOSH

Donna, listen carefully, you have to go home.

DONNA

Seriously? So when Leo said everyone below Special Assistant--

JOSH

He meant you.

CUT TO:

10 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (FORMERLY JOSH'S BULLPEN) 10

HAFFLEY's still talking on three of Leo's monitors. C.J. is on only one. The phones are RINGING off the hook as --

HAFFLEY (ON TV)

We believe that the way to prosperity is through innovation, allowing Americans to create more jobs rather than allowing government to create more bureaucracy...

TOBY

Your phones are ringing.

Leo's behind his desk. Barely looks up.

LEO

Yeah. Margaret went home.

TOBY

What's the President doing?

LEO

Watching basketball.

TOBY

Does he have a plan?

LEO

I think it was pretty spontaneous.

TOBY

If we don't end this now, it'll become a referendum on the Bartlet Presidency.

LEO

Yeah.

TOBY

Want me to talk to him?

LEO

No. I've got it.

Leo reaches for the remote, turns down Haffley as he turns up C.J. and we --

CUT TO:

11 INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 11

C.J.'s still at the Podium.

(CONTINUED)



11 CONTINUED:

11

GEORGE

Isn't this a bluff? I mean, there's going to be a deal reached by midnight, just like every year, right?

C.J.

I cannot speak for Congress, but the President will not cut essential services, which is what their CR does.

KATIE

Isn't it irresponsible of the President to refuse to sign, disrupting people's lives and paychecks, over three percent?

C.J.

Three percent equals...  
(searches her notes)  
More than a billion dollars in...  
education funding, clean energy research,  
highway safety to name a few. I'll get  
you exact figures.

MARK

The Speaker said this continuing resolution was the expressed will of both the House and Senate.

C.J.

It wasn't the will of the 196 Congressmen and 44 Senators who voted against all fourteen appropriations bills.

MARK

If these services are so vital, why isn't the President still negotiating?

CUT TO:

12 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE- CONTINUOUS (FORMERLY JOSH'S BULLPEN) 12

Where Josh watches C.J. on TV. Donna steps in carrying a small box of things she might need at home.

DONNA

I'm taking stationary, a stapler, three pens of various colors, the budget files--

JOSH

Why don't you just take them on disk?

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

Because I don't have a computer at home.  
Can I take a computer?

JOSH

Not unless you want three Federal agents  
trailing you home.

DONNA

Do I get to pick which three?

JOSH

I can survive for a day.

DONNA

Is that all it's going to last, a day?

JOSH

'Kay, take my laptop. Start a tally of  
programs affected by the shutdown and  
email it to me as you go. And don't read  
anything in the folder marked "private."

(beat)

Don't take my laptop.

Will pops his head in.

WILL

You coming?

(what?)

War room.

And Will goes. A war room. More serious now, Josh grabs his  
calendar and a binder marked Presidential Events.

DONNA

What's happening?

JOSH

Remember when we went to Atlantic City?

DONNA

We never went to Atlantic City.

JOSH

Remember when I went to Atlantic City and  
came back complaining that the pro poker  
players suck all the fun out of the game.  
No cigars, no pizza or canned beer.

DONNA

You played one hand.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

JOSH

Those guys, they bet the bank when they have a good hand. And you either fold or you go in all the way with 'em. I think the President is gonna stay in.

DONNA

How good is Haffley?

JOSH

Better than anyone we've seen on the other side of the table in a long time.

CUT TO:

12A INT. REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT (FORMERLY SCENE 14) 12A

Elated, poised and confident, we're CLOSE ON --

HAFFLEY

I figured they'd negotiate us down to two, but a shutdown? They're not prepared for this.

He's with Royce and a dozen CONGRESSMEN and SENATORS. You can almost hear the echo of popping champagne corks.

TITLE:

Republican War Room

SENATOR LINDSAY

Are we?

HAFFLEY

We didn't shut down the government. Bartlet did. He's the one who's going to have to explain it to the country.

CONGRESSMAN JAFFE enters with MEDIA HANDOUTS.

CONGRESSMAN JAFFE

Sorry, took me a while to figure out how to unjam the copier.

ROYCE

If he comes back with two percent, we can pass a CR tonight.

HAFFLEY

Why would we? He thinks people want his big government, let's show him how well Americans can get by without the Deputy Director of Regulatory Intrusion.

(CONTINUED)

12A CONTINUED:

Royce looks at all the young turks, eager to follow Haffley.

ROYCE

They'll call tonight, they won't want it to drag on.

SENATOR LINDSAY

You've spoken to Russell?

ROYCE

Not yet, but that's who they'll use as a go-between.

HAFFLEY

So long as they blink first, it doesn't matter who calls.

CONGRESSMAN RAMIREZ

In the meantime, we've got Congressmen looking for toner cartridges and I've got 35,000 Federal employees in my district out of work.

HAFFLEY

Get on the phone to your local media. Make sure they know who threw us out of the White House. Make sure those 35,000 people know who sent them home.

CUT TO:

13 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - NIGHT

13

Angela lugs a heavy stack of files into the room, BANGS them onto the huge table. Some of the debris from the earlier meeting is still laying about. Half empty water glasses, blue briefing papers.

**TITLE:**

**White House War Room**

Will, Toby and Leo are settling in, pulling off their jackets, rolling up their sleeves. Josh enters.

JOSH

Hey, the Advisory Board still at ten tomorrow?

LEO

Yeah. Treasury's worried about the debt ceiling.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

I left word with Violence Prevention and Business Roundtable. But the address to the NAACP. Should we cancel? It's nongovernmental, we'll need advance--

\*

LEO

Don't cancel anything yet.

JOSH

But the President--

LEO

Angela thinks we'll get an agreement tonight.

TOBY

What kind of an agreement?

\*

ANGELA

My guess is that he would have settled on two percent had the meeting continued. It's probably still available.

Two percent?! Josh really wants to jump in.

LEO

And tomorrow?

ANGELA

Depends on how it plays in the morning papers.

JOSH

We have to call Haffley out for what he's really doing, it's a coup. He's trying to defund every Bartlet initiative we've passed in the last two years--

LEO

Josh. The President has a full schedule tomorrow. Go make sure everyone in Planning knows he intends to keep it.

(to Toby)

Can we downplay this to the press?

\*

\*

\*

Josh, sufficiently chastened, quietly gathers his things.

TOBY

That's what Haffley wants, 940,000 Federal employees are out of work, but we say "no worries, it doesn't matter."

Josh takes one last look back at the group, moving on without him. Exits.

WILL

Maybe I'm just having some kind of mental log jam, but why did the President snap?

LEO

It was a mugging. Angela had the thing wired and Haffley tried to roll us.

WILL

Yeah, but it's also a negotiation. You don't shoot a duck for quacking.

LEO

Are you speaking for the Vice President?

WILL

Quacking thing kind of gives it away doesn't it?

ANGELA

I'll call Haffley's guys, give me an hour for the pre-meeting, and we can still have an agreement by midnight.

C.J. enters.

C.J.

Help.

LEO

Don't go out there again until morning.

C.J.

Okay but the enemy's advancing and you better give me more than a squirt gun before the sun comes up.

WILL

We need some coffee.

Looks around, there is no one. No assistants, nothing.

WILL

Anybody know where we can get coffee?

TOBY

Mess is closed and I couldn't find any filters in the break room.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

C.J.

Starbucks closes at seven. Try Swing's at 17th and G.

Will exits, not looking forward to the night ahead.

LEO

What else.

C.J.

The British Prime Minister.

LEO

Isn't visiting for four days. One day at a time.

C.J.

It's a State Dinner, 216 guests, formal attire.

LEO

Josh can handle it. What else.

TOBY

We can put together a strategy, but Leo, there isn't anything else until we sign a deal.

ANGELA

You have to talk the President down off the ledge, tonight. If I go back and hammer out a deal at two percent, he has to sign it.

CUT TO:

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 14  | OMITTED (MOVED TO SCENE 12A)               | 14  |
| 15  |  | 15  |
| and | OMITTED                                    | and |
| 16  |  | 16  |
| 17  | OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO SCENE 22)       | 17  |
| 18  | OMITTED (MOVED TO SCENE 19A)               | 18  |
| 18A | INT. WHITE HOUSE RESIDENCE HALLWAY - NIGHT | 18A |

Leo makes his way down the long hallway, nods to the Secret Service agent stationed outside the door, KNOCKS. Enters--

19 INT. RESIDENCE/FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

19

Finds Bartlet snacking and watching TV.

LEO  
Good evening, sir.

BARTLET  
Hey, grab a seat.

Leo uneasily approaches.

LEO  
What's the score?

BARTLET  
Doesn't matter. The game is won or lost  
in the last five minutes.

LEO  
So the Irish are down.

Bartlet cracks another pistachio.

LEO  
Sir, I've got Angela running the War  
Room, but we don't have a lot of support  
inside or outside the building.

Bartlet grabs a handful of nuts, still focused on the game.

LEO  
Angela feels they'll close at 2 percent.

BARTLET  
I took his Vice President. I dropped my  
stimulus package, my college tuition tax  
credit. And now we're haggling not over  
the budget, but how much to cut last  
year's--

LEO  
It's a bad deal. A bad week, a bad year.  
But our approval's in the 30s and we're  
out of allies on the Hill.

(after a beat)  
Let's get past this budget cycle. Make  
a deal at 2 percent tonight. Not let it  
become a noose around our necks. Then we  
can get back on message, be bold at the  
State of the Union, take back Congress--

(CONTINUED)



19 CONTINUED:

19

BARTLET

They're not-- they have a seven foot center and the best power forward in the game. Why zone?

Leo watches the President, watching TV. Then:

LEO

It's not always enough to be right, sir.

Bartlet turns to him, steadily:

BARTLET

Grab a soda if you'd like, Leo, they're in the 'fridge.

CUT TO:

19A INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT (FORMERLY SCENE 18)

19A

Will pushes in from outside, carrying more coffee than he should. Wet from the rain. Makes his way toward the lobby. A woman is sitting in the hall, watching him enter, CRICKET, 20s. High heels, short skirt, a low cut blouse that features things usually not seen in the West Wing.

CRICKET

Let me help you with that.

Will notices her, then immediately tries to not notice her.

WILL

Thanks. I'm okay.

He does need help, so she grabs a couple of the coffees.

WILL

Thanks.

CRICKET

I did two years at the House of Pies, two cups of coffee are nothin'.

She walks along beside him.

CRICKET

You're Will Bailey, right?

WILL

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

19A CONTINUED:

CRICKET

I read about you in *People*. You really sailed a boat to Fiji by yourself?

WILL

Tahiti. In college, yeah.

CRICKET

Wow, that must've really been something.

WILL

I was seasick most of the time.

Who is this woman? They arrive outside the Roosevelt Room. Will takes the coffee back.

WILL

So, ah...thanks...

CRICKET

No problem. If you need anything, I'll be around.

She smiles again, turns. Goes. He stands there, watching her walk off. Then, after a beat, pushes into --

20 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - NIGHT

20

C.J. and Toby try to figure out how to hook up the video inputs on a snowy monitor they've just rolled in on a stand. Angela works at another white board, scribbling votes, issues, and dollar figures, filling the space.

C.J.

It's the yellow one.

WILL

Any word from Haffley?

ANGELA

They're not gonna call. It's our move.

C.J.

It has to go into the S-video thing.

Toby just stares at C.J. as Leo enters.

ANGELA

Please tell us good news.

\*

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

LEO

How about if I tell you we're going to work 940,000 times harder tomorrow.

They stare at each other. Christ, this is not good news.

C.J.

What do you want me to say to the press?

TOBY

We should close the press room, hold briefings on the lawn. Show them the shutdown is real to us too--

\*  
\*

C.J.

It's cold and raining.

LEO

Forecast is sunshine for the rest of the week.

C.J.

Great. I can work on my tan.

ANGELA

So I tell the other side--

LEO

Nothing. We're done for the night.

21 INT. CORRIDORS - SAME TIME

21

Josh heads into Leo's office, drops some papers on Leo's desk. Then heads back into the hallway past the Roosevelt Room, slows when he hears the raised voices inside.

\*  
\*  
\*

ANGELA (INSIDE)

Rome's burning Leo, I suggest we do something other than play air guitar.

LEO (INSIDE)

These are the cards we were dealt.

C.J. (INSIDE)

Toby and I started on a media plan.

\*  
\*

WILL (INSIDE)

The Vice President can go on the Sunday shows.

\*  
\*  
\*

Josh hesitates. He could go in. Instead, keeps walking.

\*

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

LEO (INSIDE)

Not yet. The next two hours are about making sure we don't turn the runway lights off at any airports.

Inside, Leo stands, starts out, sees Josh walking away--

LEO

Josh.

Josh turns, is this Leo wanting him back in the room?

LEO

The Prime Minister's in four days. Let State know we'll have it done by then.

JOSH

You're not going back tonight?

LEO

No.

Leo starts off. Josh calls after him.

JOSH

Leo, what the President's doing. It takes real courage.

LEO

Custer was also remembered fondly. Let me know if the Brits need reassuring.

And Leo's gone. Josh watches him go, off Josh, looking back to the Roosevelt Room we --

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22 INT. CORRIDORS - MORNING (FORMERLY LEO'S OFFICE) 22

Leo enters, newspapers under his arm, CNN blaring on the TV monitors he passes, the bannered intro card on the telecast reads: "SHUTDOWN, DAY TWO".

NEWSCASTER (VO)

...As we enter the second day of Federal paralysis, our *Times/CBS* poll find more Americans holding the Democrats responsible for the deadlock. 42% of respondents said Democrats were --

\*  
\*

Images filter past: The padlocked large wooden doors of the Smithsonian. Park Rangers waving away cars from the barricaded entrance to a National Park. A handmade CLOSED UNTIL WASHINGTON GETS ITS ACT TOGETHER sign on the glass doors of a governmental office as Leo meets up with C.J. --

C.J.

They're blaming us.

LEO

Any change in the overnights?

C.J.

We keep saying they're Scrooge denying the needy. They say we're addicted to spending. Both our negatives are up, but ours more. You see *Newsweek*?

She follows him into --

22A INT. LEO'S OFFICE - MORNING 22A

Leo's desk is a mess, piled high with newspapers, papers, coffee cups, some old take out.

LEO

It beats the cover of *Time*.

C.J.

So what's the plan?

LEO

Plan? Who said we had a plan?

There's a KNOCK. The Vice President is in the open door.

(CONTINUED)

RUSSELL

Got a minute, Leo?

Leo stands, respecting the office, not the man.

LEO

Of course, Mr. Vice President. Please.

(to C.J.)

I'll see you at the thing.

C.J. backs out. Russell plops down in a chair as Leo's desk phone starts to RING.

RUSSELL

How's the President doing?

LEO

He's fighting a cold.

RUSSELL

Think it's about time for me to talk to a few of my former colleagues in the House?

LEO

Not yet, sir, no.

Leo's phone's still RINGING. They look, it finally stops.

RUSSELL

I served on Energy with Haffley.

LEO

I appreciate that --

RUSSELL

I sang in the Congressional Quartet with the Majority Whip. I've gotten drunk on fact-finding trips with half the--

LEO

With all due respect, sir, we can't send mixed signals.

RUSSELL

You saw their deal two days ago and turned them down. If you're waiting for Haffley to call, you've misjudged your man. You can't treat this Speaker--

LEO

The President will decide the terms--

This is getting heated. It's uncomfortable for both of them.

(CONTINUED)

RUSSELL

No he won't. Like it or not, we have a Republican Congress. They get to write the budget. The President only gets to edit it a bit. You want to blame someone, call James Madison.

LEO

Thanks for the history lesson, sir, I'll be sure to pass it on to the President.

Leo's desk phone starts RINGING again. Leo reaches over, takes it off the hook. Russell stands, buttons his jacket.

RUSSELL

You know what they call a leader with no followers? Just a guy taking a walk.

And Russell goes, off Leo we --

CUT TO:

23 OMITTED

23 \*

24 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY

24 \*

The room's scrappy, just-thrown-together. Dry erase boards with the names of key players, priority issues and appropriations bills with \$ signs.

And it's a mess, take out containers, an overflow of wadded paper, office supplies, unemptied trash cans, Diet Cokes, used coffee cups and corresponding stains. C.J. is on the phone. Toby works compiling his own press packet across the table from Will as Cricket scoops trash into a large garbage bag.

CRICKET

Need any help with that?

She smiles at Toby, he smiles uncomfortably back.

TOBY

Excuse me?

CRICKET

I compiled clippings over at Energy.

TOBY

Ah...no. I've got it, thanks...

She moves to Will, starts clearing the take-out containers from the table. Leans past Will in a vaguely provocative way. Is it on purpose, or just the angle required to clean up?

(CONTINUED)

WILL

Sorry, we should have cleaned up the moo shoo yesterday.

CRICKET

No problem.

Leo enters.

LEO

So, where are we?

TOBY

You see the Post/ABC poll this morning? \*

LEO

(it wasn't good)  
...Yeah...

CRICKET

Excuse me. Do any of you guys know where the dumpsters are?

TOBY

Do I look like a janitor? \*

CRICKET

Do I?  
(off Toby's face)  
S'okay. I'll find them. \*

They all watch her go.

LEO

Who's that?

TOBY

A walking law suit.

C.J.

Where are we on the State Dinner?

LEO

It's still on the schedule.

C.J.

Except we don't have food, chefs or help.

LEO

Josh is coordinating with the British.  
We've got another day before we have to decide.

(CONTINUED)



Angela enters, she's exhausted, showing the strain.

ANGELA  
Any change?

C.J.  
Not according to *TIME*.

C.J. holds up *TIME*. On the cover is Haffley. "THE NEW BOSS?"

LEO  
How'd it go with the Minority Leader?

ANGELA  
I got the House Dems for one more day,  
but she's threatening to cut bait.

WILL  
I can have the VP speak to her.

LEO  
No.

WILL  
They co-sponsored Environmental  
Maintenance together.

LEO  
Everything goes through Angela.

ANGELA  
He should speak with her, Leo. If we  
lose the Minority Leader, House Dems will  
start lobbying the Speaker instead of us  
for table scraps--

TOBY  
Then Haffley's running the government.

Leo takes a long moment. Decides:

LEO  
Okay. Today is the day. Work the VP and  
the Minority Leader and contact Haffley.  
Make sure we can still get a deal at  
three percent.

WILL  
What happened to trying for two percent?

LEO  
12 hours passed, that's what happened.  
(to Angela)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (3)

24

LEO (cont'd)

Tell the Speaker we're taking their temperature, but the President isn't yet involved.

TOBY

It has that rare quality of also being true.

LEO

I want a CR by the close of business.

CUT TO:

25 INT. CAPITOL HALLWAY - DAY

25

Haffley, Royce and some of the young turks walk toward the Republican Conference Room.

CONGRESSMAN JAFFE

They blinked?

HAFFLEY

Yeah. The Vice President's working with the Minority Leader. We're going to get a CR today.

ROYCE

The President's not on board yet.

HAFFLEY

It's just a tactic so Bartlet doesn't look weak.

CONGRESSMAN JAFFE

They're gonna swallow three percent?

HAFFLEY

Right now they'd swallow five, but we're gonna be magnanimous.

ROYCE

We're only fifty billion apart on the final budget. Why don't I call Russell, suggest we skip the continuing resolution and cut a budget deal.

HAFFLEY

We can get a much better deal on the budget if they sign our CR.

ROYCE

They caved, we won, how much more leverage do we need before we start governing again?

(CONTINUED)

Haffley's not happy with the Majority Leader's lack of vision.

HAFFLEY

We are governing. We're slowing the rate of federal spending increases. We're stopping this President from driving the country farther into debt and leaving our children to pay for it. We're doing what we told the voters we would do if they elected us.

CONGRESSMAN JAFFE

The cover of *TIME*, huh?

Haffley doesn't answer, but can't help enjoying it as we --

CUT TO:

26 OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO SCENE 25) 26

26A INT. THE RESIDENCE - DAY 26A

BARTLET

No.

Bartlet stands, looking out the window. He doesn't look well as Leo pleads his case.

LEO

It's a good deal. Three percent on the CR and we live to fight another day.

BARTLET

One percent like we'd agreed.

LEO

Sir, we're not going to get one percent. We need to get past this, focus on the future. House Democrats aren't going to stick, they have to head home for the holidays and defend why we've shut down the federal government over --

BARTLET

No.

Bartlet isn't angry. Quite the opposite, he's quiet, calm. Almost detached. Leo takes a moment then --

LEO

Sir, you're putting all our chips down on a single hand we can't win.

(CONTINUED)

26A CONTINUED:

26A

Bartlet turns to Leo, simply:

BARTLET  
We had a deal, Leo.

CUT TO:

27 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

27

Plastic lunch bags, styrofoam lunch trays, and stacks of newspapers line Josh's messy office.

He flips on his desk light but it CLICKS out. Cricket wanders in with her trash bag while Josh fiddles with the switch.

CRICKET  
Need a new bulb?

JOSH  
Um. Yeah, sure. Cricket, right?

CRICKET  
I was born at night. Outdoors.

She reaches around, empties his trash. Josh picks up his phone, starts to dial.

JOSH  
How'd you get here, Cricket?

CRICKET  
Bus.

She leans in, unscrews his burned out bulb.

JOSH  
No, I mean. Why aren't you laid off like everybody else?

CRICKET  
My program wasn't effected.  
(the bulb)  
I'll see what I can scrounge up.

She goes. Josh watches her going, it's quite a walk. Listens to his cell phone ringing some distant line until --

INTERCUT WITH:

28 INT. NEIGHBORHOOD SPORTS BAR - AFTERNOON

28

All the bright, young nonessential STAFFERS drink and gossip. Donna answers her phone.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

Josh Lyman's Office.

JOSH

Where are you? It's really loud.

DONNA

I went to that shutdown party.

JOSH

So this list of shutdown effects you faxed...

DONNA

Yeah. The one about the elks overpopulating is true. They stopped issuing hunting licenses--

JOSH

Why'd you put Social Security on the list? It's an entitlement.

DONNA

Yeah, but we sent home the people from the Social Security Administration who run the machines that cut the checks.

Cricket returns triumphantly with a light bulb. Josh moves out of the way so she can install it.

JOSH

Checks won't go out?

DONNA

Not unless we get the GAO to issue a ruling to bring those guys back in. What did Counsel say about the other thing?

JOSH

It's considered coercion if you come back to work as a volunteer.

DONNA

But it's not coercion to work on a cell phone and run to Kinko's every ten minutes to send you faxes and emails?

JOSH

The AARP considers you essential.

DONNA

When do you think I'll get my essential paycheck? Rent's due end of the month.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

I'll loan you money.

DONNA

But wouldn't that just be emblematic of all these stopgap continuing resolutions? Taking out a loan, begging for an extension rather than grappling with the hard reality --

JOSH

You're right. Get a cheaper apartment.

DONNA

I want to come in and do my job.

JOSH

Tell me about it.

DONNA

Stop being a baby and just go.

JOSH

Not my responsibility anymore.

DONNA

So what? Leo's not going to send you an engraved invitation.

JOSH

I don't need calligraphy. He knows where my office is.

DONNA

Fine, let them destroy everything you've done in the last four years.

BRET

Hey Donna, can I buy you a drink?

BRET, a happy young Republican, he's recognized Donna.

DONNA

No, but you can explain why you guys are against public service.

BRET

Okay, but considering the only job I've had is in government, I have to disagree.

JOSH

Who're you talking to?

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

A fellow non-essential, and he's cute.

JOSH

Therefore a Republican.

DONNA

Well, yeah. 'Bye...

And Donna hangs up on Josh. Off Josh, smiling we --

CUT TO:

29 OMITTED

29

30 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

30

Toby, Will and C.J.

WILL

Social Security's an entitlement.

TOBY

That's what the people who get their checks every month think.

C.J.

Well, it's one way to make the shutdown seem real to the country, don't mail eleven million checks.

WILL

It'd be catastrophic, if we don't fix this--

TOBY

FDR will rise from the dead?

WILL

Millions of angry grandparents are gonna march on Washington, burn us in effigy.

TOBY

Josh is on it.

WILL

Thousands of grannies in walkers, tens of thousands of ancient veterans on oxygen singing "We Shall Overcome"...

TOBY

Josh is taking care of it.

(CONTINUED)

Leo and Angela enter, excited. \*

LEO  
We still have their offer. \*

ANGELA  
They're holding at three percent. \*

WILL  
Will the President accept it? \*

LEO  
He has to. \*

TOBY  
Yeah, but will he? \*

LEO  
Desperate times call for desperate  
measures. I made a call. \*

WILL  
To who? \*

Toby and C.J. realize. Exchange looks. \*

C.J.  
Really? \*

LEO  
Yeah. \*

Leo goes. Will looks at the others, confused. \*

WILL  
Who? Who'd he call? \*

CUT TO:

31 INT. WHITE HOUSE - EARLY EVENING (FORMERLY EXT.) 31

Outside we see a limo arrive. The doors open and a pair of  
boots exit. Women's boots. The boots enter--

32 INT. LOBBY 32

Continue on to --

33 INT. CORRIDORS 33

Picking up pace, they race march onward toward--



34 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - SAME TIME

34

The doors fly open and ABBEY BARTLET appears.

ABBEY

What the hell have you all been doing  
down here while I've been gone?

Off the startled faces of Leo and the Senior Staffers we --

CUT TO:

34A INT. RESIDENCE - NIGHT (FORMERLY SCENE 39)

34A

The President is in the kitchen, making a sandwich.

ABBEY

A bit desperate, Jed, shutting down the  
government to get me back here.

Abbey has appeared in the open doorway. He looks back at her.

BARTLET

Apparently it worked.

Abbey grabs a plate out of the cabinet, takes half of his  
sandwich and puts it on a plate.

ABBEY

Peanut Butter and Jelly? This was going  
to be your dinner?

BARTLET

The mess is closed. When this is gone,  
I'm going to have to start in on the  
grand kids' elbow macaroni.

ABBEY

You sound stuffy.

BARTLET

Yeah, something is going around.

She heads for the refrigerator to see what else there is.

BARTLET

They said your motorcade arrived an hour  
ago. Where have you been?

ABBEY

Downstairs in your War Room.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

Oh?

ABBEY

Which I noticed you were not in.

She finds a couple of sodas and a few pieces of fruit.

ABBEY

So what happened. You lose your temper?

BARTLET

Haffley reneged on the deal.

ABBEY

So now you're just sitting up here waiting for, what exactly?

He smiles. Doesn't answer, moves to the table with his half a sandwich and soda. She follows, sits with him.

ABBEY

Your staff wants to bring you an offer.

BARTLET

Haffley came to us with a deal?

Here's to wishful thinking, his temper flares.

BARTLET

Dammit, I told Leo no. Did he go ahead and contact the --

ABBEY

Don't be so melodramatic. They don't understand what you want them to do.

(and)

Do you know what you want them to do?

He looks at her for a moment, that enigmatic smile. Then:

BARTLET

You staying through the holidays?

ABBEY

Depends on how long it takes to get your damn government back up and running.

He was hoping for more, but there isn't any. They eat in silence for another moment, then:

(CONTINUED)

34A CONTINUED: (2)

34A

ABBEY

Jed, where is Josh?

CUT TO:

35 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

35

Tie loosened, legs up, shoes off, Josh is working. There's not a soul in the bullpen. His phone rings.

JOSH

Josh Lyman.

He listens for a beat. Then slowly hangs up, stands, tightens his tie, slips on his shoes, exits to--

36 INT. JOSH'S BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

36

Steps out into the empty hallway. Walks down the corridor, pulling on his suit jacket. We STAY BACK by his office, watching him. He stops outside the door to the Roosevelt Room. Runs a hand through his hair then as he enters --

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

JOSH (OS)

So, where are we?

\*  
\*

Disappears inside and we --

\*

FADE TO BLACK:

\*

37 OMITTED

37

\*

END OF ACT TWO

\*

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

37A INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - MORNING

37A

CNN on a TV, the ticker reads: "SHUTDOWN, DAY THREE WHO'S TO BLAME? 48% DEMOCRATS, 34% REPUBLICANS, 27% BOTH." On screen, a muted commentator blathers on. Toby's at his desk, picking through a mess of morning papers. C.J. appears in the door --

C.J.

I'm on my way outside for the briefing.  
Anything new?

TOBY

Times/CBS has us down another six points. \*

C.J.

Don't think I'm gonna bring that up.

TOBY

I think it might come up anyway.

C.J.

We finally cancelling the Prime Minister?

TOBY

No. \*

C.J.

We gonna order take out for two hundred? \*

TOBY

Lotta Happy Meals. \*

C.J.

Josh still in there with Leo and Angela?

TOBY

Round twelve, or maybe thirteen, I've  
lost count.

C.J. smiles. Then:

C.J.

Toby, we've all been assuming this is the  
President not understanding what's really  
going on. He's been so out of it since  
Zoey, you know...

(he watches her)

We've all been protecting him; Leo, you,  
me. But what if it's something else?

(CONTINUED)

37A CONTINUED:

37A

TOBY

It's not.

C.J.

But what if it is?

TOBY

The Republicans have us and they know it,  
he and Josh are the only ones who don't.

(off her look)

Okay, it's something else. Like what?

C.J.

Leadership.

\*

CUT TO:

|    |                              |    |
|----|------------------------------|----|
| 38 | OMITTED (MOVED TO SCENE 40A) | 38 |
| 39 | OMITTED (MOVED TO SCENE 34A) | 39 |
| 40 | INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY    | 40 |

Leo, Angela and Will are arguing with Josh. The room is really a mess now, coffee cups, pizza boxes, piles of papers.

JOSH

The President has already said three percent was unacceptable.

ANGELA

That was three days ago.

JOSH

Three days or three years, it's still unacceptable.

Toby enters, leans against the wall.

ANGELA

The Speaker--

JOSH

Was elected by 115 thousand residents of Spokane, Washington. The President was elected by 51 million Americans!

TOBY

One percent, three percent, five percent, the CR is nothing if we never get around to passing a budget--

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Royce called the Vice President because he knows Haffley is reaching. We can use Royce to try and--

WILL

Royce isn't going to take on Haffley and Haffley's convinced they've already won--

JOSH

Only because we blinked!

Leo's fed up with all this.

LEO

Of course we blinked! We lost all meaningful support in the House and Senate, and the public is blaming this mess on us!

(gathers himself)

The President is going to be down here any minute. This is the come-to-Jesus meeting, Josh. I need unanimity, not an undercard bout on *WWF Smackdown*.

BARTLET

Who's coming to Jesus, Leo? Me or you?

Bartlet has entered, heard only the end of it.

EVERYBODY

Mr. President...good morning, sir...

BARTLET

Three percent. Sixty days.

ANGELA

Mr. President. It's a gift.

BARTLET

Toby?

TOBY

People are frustrated with both parties. It's a plague on both our houses.

BARTLET

Will. Where's the Vice President?

WILL

They could have pushed us to 5%. The Vice President's fine with three.

(CONTINUED)

Josh is still putting his thoughts together. Bartlet looks to Leo, who hasn't said a word.

LEO

We gave it three days to turn in our favor, sir. It didn't.

BARTLET

Josh.

Josh looks to Leo, knows what he's supposed to say. But:

JOSH

What do you want, Mr. President?

BARTLET

I want to be able to govern.

ANGELA

Our bargaining position is weakening every day. There's a deal on the table. Democratic Leadership's on board. Republican Leadership is in their conference room waiting for our reply.

Bartlet looks around, considering. Josh realizes --

JOSH

Let's go up to the Hill and see them.

Dead silence.

TOBY

We can't go to the Hill. We'll look even more desperate.

JOSH

Or magnanimous. People are looking for someone to step up, it should be us.

LEO

Sir, I'm afraid it'll only weaken us for the budget negotiations.

ANGELA

We can't just park the Presidential motorcade in front of the Capitol and knock on Haffley's door.

BARTLET

Sure we can.

Bartlet stands.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

Let's go.

LEO

Mr. President, you have the video conference with PACOM and the President of the Philippines at five.

BARTLET

Then I suggest we get a move on.

Josh is up with him, everyone else has whiplash. Bartlet goes, Josh follows quickly behind. There's a stunned silence.

ANGELA

They're leaving.

LEO

Go.

Off Toby, Will and Leo, left sitting in the War Room we --

CUT TO:

40A EXT. PEBBLE BEACH - DAY (FORMERLY SCENE 38)

40A

C.J. is briefing. We only see C.J.'s side of the questioning.

CHARLAYNE (OS)

C.J. it's day three and the *Times/CBS* poll has you at your lowest approval ratings in over a year, is there going to be any movement on the part of the President toward a compromise?

\*

C.J.

I want to reiterate that talks are ongoing, just not formal negotiations.

CHARLAYNE (OS)

So you're talking about talking?

C.J.

We're talking about negotiating. George.

\*

GEORGE (OS)

Is the President going to cancel the State Dinner tomorrow night?

\*

\*

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)



C.J.

I certainly hope not because I bought a shiny, new Donna Karan, and I'll be very disappointed if it has to stay in my closet. Mark?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

A cell phone starts CHIMING.

\*

MARK (OS)

It's cold out here.

\*  
\*

C.J.

You want me to comment on the weather?

MARK (OS)

I want you to open the press room.

\*

CHARLAYNE (OS)

C.J., where will the President and the Prime Minister be dining then?

\*  
\*  
\*

C.J.

I don't know, IHOP. Thank you everybody.

\*  
\*

She steps away, back toward the doors. Pulls her still RINGING cell phone from her pocket.

\*  
\*

C.J.

...Yeah?

\*  
\*

INTERCUT WITH:

41  
thru OMITTED  
42A

41  
thru  
42A

\*  
\*  
\*

42B OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO SCENE 40A)

42B

\*

43 OMITTED

43

\*

44 OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO 45)

44

\*

45 INT. THE PRESIDENT'S LIMO

45

Josh is on his cell phone. Angela beside him. Bartlet sits across from them, preoccupied watching the city roll by.

\*  
\*

JOSH

Where are you?

\*  
\*

C.J.

Just finished the briefing--

\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Get back to the press corps. POTUS is going up to the Hill. We're gonna pay a surprise visit to Haffley.

(there's silence)

Did you hear me? Call the cavalry, we're--

C.J.

Okay. I got it.

C.J. smiles, clicks off her phone as Josh closes his. He and Angela speak quietly so as not to disturb the President.

ANGELA

If I have to suffer through Haffley pontificating on Congressional powers and the role of Federalism--

JOSH

Haffley's only been Speaker for a few months, he's in over his head.

ANGELA

Everything this guy's done has taken us by surprise.

JOSH

And nothing we've done has surprised him.

BARTLET

Stop the car, please.

ANGELA

...Now what?

Bartlet is staring across the street at about TWENTY TOURISTS, sitting and standing on the steps of the National Gallery of Art. A couple of tour buses are parked at the curb.

SECRET SERVICE

Mr. President are you going to exit the vehicle?

BARTLET

Yeah.

(the buses)

Kansas plates. That's a long way to travel to find a 'closed' sign.

SECRET SERVICE

(into mic)

Eagle is working the crowd.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

The motorcade is pulling over as we --

46 EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVE - DAY (SHOT AS DC8-2)

46

The entire motorcade stops on Pennsylvania Ave. The PRESIDENT and SECRET SERVICE exit the limo and instantly the TOURISTS are on their feet. Huge smiles and awestruck looks as they form a semi-circle around him.

Josh and Angela step out of the limo to watch.

ANGELA

They'll have a few things to talk about when they get home.

Josh's cell phone RINGS, he answers it.

JOSH

Hey.

INTERCUT WITH:

46A INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - DAY

46A

C.J.'s just rushed into her office, grabs the remote to watch what's happening on the news.

C.J.

You there yet?

JOSH

The President stopped to address a group of tourists.

C.J.

The President's talking to tourists?

JOSH

From Kansas. Blue Jays, or Jay Hawks. Hang on, it's on the side of the bus.

C.J.

You wait another thirty seconds he'll also be addressing NBC, ABC and CNN.

JOSH

Yeah.

Josh smiles and hangs up --

46B EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVE - DAY (SHOT AS DC8-3)

46B

He studies the Capitol building, thinks.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

How long a walk would you say it is from here to Haffley's office?

ANGELA

Five, ten minutes.

JOSH

Secret Service is gonna love this...

Josh approaches Bartlet interacting with the TOURISTS.

BARTLET

What part of Kansas?

TOURIST

Flint Hills.

BARTLET

During the campaign I stopped by the Westford Rehabilitation Center. It's closed today, too, because of the shutdown. But if Congress has their way they'd lose 40% of their funding. I'd rather see it closed for a week than for good.

JOSH

Mr. President.

BARTLET

Excuse me.

JOSH

The Capitol is a five to ten minute walk from here.

Bartlet surveys the growing crowd as two TV News trucks catch up, reporters and cameramen hopping out.

JOSH

Care to stretch your legs?

Bartlet smiles, turns back to the CROWD.

BARTLET

Thank you folks but I've got a meeting on the Hill.

The SECRET SERVICE starts to usher Bartlet towards the limo.

TOURIST

Go get 'em Mr. President.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

Randy, what do you say we walk the rest of the way.

SS AGENT RANDY

(pause)

Yes, sir.

Off Randy's signal, SECRET SERVICE scrambles into action.

SS AGENT RANDY

Counter Assault Team deploy east. I need two forward positions along Pennsylvania. Eagle is on foot.

And now, from FARTHER DOWN the Blvd, we see Bartlet, flanked by his SECRET SERVICE detail, marching confidently toward the Capitol. ONLOOKERS gather, wave and cheer.

Angela and Josh join him. Angela tries to contain her smile, but can't when she and Josh share a glance.

JOSH

What.

ANGELA

I should have worn different shoes.

The Wild Bunch, lead by Bartlet, heading to the Capital to take care of the country's business.

CUT TO:

46C INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - DAY

46C

C.J. watches the live feed of Bartlet and his entourage walking up Pennsylvania Ave toward the Capital.

Toby stands in her doorway. He doesn't have to say anything. After a moment they both break out into smiles... big smiles.

47 OMITTED

47

48 OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO SCENES 46, 46A, 46B)

48

49 OMITTED

49

50 INT. CAPITOL HALLWAY - DAY

50

A camera crew walks several steps ahead of Bartlet, recording the President's historic march to the Speaker's office.

(CONTINUED)



50 CONTINUED:

50

They stop at the door to the Republican Conference Room. Josh KNOCKS. No answer. Josh opens the door and enters--

51 INT. REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE ANTE-ROOM - CONTINUOUS

51

If there were a receptionist, he would be at the desk. But nobody's in the room. The PRESS isn't allowed inside, so Bartlet and Angela stay out in the hallway. Josh moves to the inner door. KNOCKS again. The door opens slightly.

JOSH

Hello. President Bartlet is here to see Speaker Haffley.

It's Congressman Jaffe, he's very nervous.

CONGRESSMAN JAFFE

We're wrapping up. Please, bear with us a minute. We'll be right there.

Jaffe shuts the door. Josh stands there for a moment. Then walks back out into --

51A INT. CAPITOL HALLWAY

51A

Where the President and the camera crew waits.

JOSH

They're finishing something up.

Bartlet smiles for the cameras. Heads for a stone bench against the wall.

BARTLET

Then we'll just have to wait.

Bartlet goes, sits. Looking like nothing so much as a stubborn Harry Truman, ready for anything. Angela looks at Josh, holy shit. They're making the President wait? This is a disaster. Off Josh, suddenly unsure we --

CUT TO:

52 INT. REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

52

Royce, Jaffe, Ramirez, Lindsay, the entire Republican leadership. They're unsettled, nervous, unsure of how to proceed, all except for Haffley.

HAFFLEY

It's a stunt. People will see through it. Give them some credit...

(CONTINUED)

ROYCE

The President has come to us, we don't  
keep him waiting.

Royce and Lindsay are cleaning up the table - talking points,  
briefing memos, cups, empty bags of chips.

CONGRESSMAN JAFFE

He's desperate, he wants a deal.

CONGRESSMAN RAMIREZ

We bring him in, see what he's got--

HAFFLEY

We exchange niceties and then what, he  
counters our offer? We're missing  
something...

Royce moves to the door.

HAFFLEY

No, hang on.  
(Royce doesn't)  
Wait, dammit!

Royce stops. Stares back at Haffley.

HAFFLEY

We don't go out there until we agree on  
our game plan...

CUT BACK OUT TO:

53 INT. CAPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

53

Bartlet sits on the lonely bench by himself. A little kid  
waiting outside the principal's office. The Beta cams are  
rolling, still photographers snapping away.

ANGELA

This is a disaster.

Josh watches Bartlet, looks back at the closed Republican  
Conference Room door. Smiles --

JOSH

...No, this is great.

Huh? Josh approaches Bartlet, leans in quietly.

JOSH

Mr. President. Let's go.

(CONTINUED)



53 CONTINUED:

53

Bartlet looks at Josh, what?

JOSH

Right now.

Bartlet realizes instantly, smiles. Casually stands, optimistic but frustrated. Josh quietly and urgently makes sure everyone follows, shepherds a reluctant Angela.

JOSH

Come on...

ANGELA

Now we're leaving?

BARTLET

Sorry everybody, but I've got to get back to talk to a bunch of nervous Generals. Seems there's been another minor revolt in Malaysia. Congress knows where they can find me when they're ready to help me get this country back to work.

And Bartlet marches off down the Hall again, the circus trying to catch up as we --

CUT BACK INTO:

54 INT. REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

54

Haffley is presiding over his unruly troops.

HAFFLEY

So we stick at three percent and if he also wants to do the final budget, he has to find the fifty billion on his side of the aisle. Agreed...

There are nods all around, some reluctant, some enthusiastic.

HAFFLEY

Let's get the leader of the Free World.

Royce smirks at Haffley's condescension, but follows Haffley out anyway through the --

55 INT. REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE ANTE-ROOM - CONTINUOUS

55

Haffley tightens his tie, smiles, steps out into --

55A INT. THE CAPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

55A

Ready to greet his guest.

\*

Stops short. Where the hell are they? Royce stops behind him. They look down the long hall, just in time to see the last of the Presidential entourage disappearing around the corner and down the stairs. They stand there frozen, startled for a long moment until we --

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON A TV, talking heads blathering on. The banner across the bottom of the screen screams "The Shutdown, Day Four!"

\*  
\*

DEM PUNDIT (ON TV)  
...Marched to the Capitol, while the Republicans cowered in the Speaker's office--

REP PUNDIT (ON TV)  
Yeah, but, I've got to ask. Why was he walking?

HAFFLEY (V.O.)  
Because it was a stunt!

We PULL BACK to REVEAL we're in the --

56 INT. REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

56

Haffley, Royce, Jaffe and Ramirez. The mood is solemn.

\*

DEM PUNDIT (ON TV)  
Because he was consoling some frustrated voters who hoped to see the grandeur of their nation's capitol, and let me tell you, they saw it--

REP PUNDIT (ON TV)  
It was a stunt, a beautiful, symbolic, crowd-pleasing stunt. And I have to admit, the Speaker made a huge tactical error by refusing to meet with the --

Royce just stares at Haffley unhappily.

ROYCE  
I'll call Russell.

HAFFLEY  
This doesn't change anything. We still get our budget, our cap gains cut.

ROYCE  
You better hope so.

CUT TO:

56A INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

56A

C.J. is heading for the back entrance, pulling on a coat.

ABBEY

C.J....

Abbey approaches C.J.

C.J.

Mrs. Bartlet.

ABBEY

You on your way to the morning briefing?

C.J.

Yes, ma'am.

ABBEY

Can you tell them that the First Lady is making chicken.

C.J.

Ma'am?

ABBEY

Tonight's State Dinner is going to be just the British Prime Minister and his wife joining us in the residence.

(hands her a piece of paper)

Coronation chicken, the Queen's own recipe. Thought someone from the pool might want to watch me dress a nice bird.

C.J. takes the recipe, smiles.

C.J.

Yes ma'am.

(Abbey starts off)

Mrs. Bartlet? It's good to have you back.

Abbey doesn't give her much, a smile, goes. Off C.J. we --

C.J. (VO)

The Bartlet's will also be serving their guests a Colorado beet salad and California green beans. Yeah, Mark.

CUT TO:

57 EXT. PEBBLE BEACH - DAY

57

C.J. is briefing up a storm, thoroughly enjoying her job.

MARK (OS)

The new Gallop/CNN poll shows that the President's popularity ticked up slightly overnight. Do you attribute that to his visit to the Hill?

C.J.

I attribute it to the President's sincere desire to reach a settlement.

CHARLAYNE (OS)

Is the President concerned that the Shutdown will last through the holiday?

\*

CUT TO:

58 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - SAME TIME

58

Toby was the first to arrive. He is going over notes as C.J. continues on the TV in the corner.

C.J. (ON TV)

The President is more concerned that successful programs will be shut down through holidays to come.

\*

\*

\*

\*

Cricket enters with her garbage bag.

CRICKET

Oh, sorry, I was going to try and clean up a little before anyone got here.

\*

TOBY

Yeah, go ahead.

\*

She starts in. She moves to the other end of the table, picking up trash as she goes. Sees a list of programs on the Dry Erase Board, all with numbers after them.

\*

\*

\*

GEORGE (OS)

Yes, but is there an end-date?

\*

\*

C.J. (ON TV)

When the Republicans agree that we can't lay off 20% of the Environmental Protection Agency. When the Republicans agree that the Department of Housing and Urban Development plays a crucial role in revitalizing our cities. When...

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

CRICKET

Americorp. That's that program where they pay you to volunteer, right?

TOBY

...yeah...

CRICKET

Seems weird. Paying you to volunteer. Isn't it just a job if you get paid?

TOBY

...yeah...

He's trying not to engage, keeps working.

CRICKET

It went over budget by something like fifty million bucks didn't it?

TOBY

They got more volunteers than they expected.

CRICKET

So you guys can just write a bigger check? Wish my bank let me do that.

Toby looks up at her, is getting irritated.

TOBY

We reward success. They spent more because Americorp works.

CRICKET

Yeah, but what if every program spent more than they're supposed to? We'd all end up having to pay more taxes, right?

TOBY

You have any insights on the President's foreign policy you'd like to share?

CRICKET

Oh, no... I don't know anything about Foreign Policy.

He goes back to what he was working on.

TOBY

Good, glad to hear it.

(CONTINUED)

CRICKET

You're Toby Ziegler, right?

(he doesn't answer)

It'd be great if you could write me a recommendation for my personnel file.

He stares at her, what? Is she insane? He'd say something but before he can, Angela and Josh arrive, already arguing.

ANGELA

You think Haffley's going to surrender just because we walked to his office?

JOSH

The longer they wait, the worse it's gonna get for them--

ANGELA

And the worse it gets for federal employees and all the people who depend on us for government services.

Now Leo arrives with a cup of coffee.

LEO

No Will yet?

JOSH

No. You've seen the list, a few closed parks, some disappointed tourists--

LEO

That's exactly the argument Haffley's making. We sent a million government employees home and nobody noticed.

\*  
\*

JOSH

For a few days we all make sacrifices.

ANGELA

I could care less about hikers in Hawaii. I'm talking about people whose lives are already hard, women whose shelters are gonna be closing next year because they didn't get their government grant.

\*

Will walks in, he's unsettled.

WILL

Royce isn't coming.

That's news to them.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELA

You sure?

WILL

He told the Vice President he thought it would be more productive if Haffley met with the President one on one. \*

JOSH

No details about what they're offering?

WILL

No.

ANGELA

He comes to show good faith, but he still gets his three percent and his cap gains tax cut. Haffley's tough, is the President up for this?

LEO

I don't know. Toby?

TOBY

Maybe.

LEO

Josh.

JOSH

Absolutely, he's gonna rake Haffley over the coals. No way he'll get cap gains.

LEO

Will?

WILL

I'd prefer there were a few more people in the room.

Leo looks to Angela, she shakes her head.

ANGELA

What about you Leo, you really think he's ready?

Off Leo we --

CUT TO:



60  
and OMITTED  
61  
62 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

60  
and  
61  
62

Bartlet works at his desk. Leo KNOCKS, enters.

LEO  
Excuse me, Mr. President.  
(sees Abbey)  
Hello, Abbey.

ABBEY  
Leo.

LEO  
The Speaker's here.

BARTLET  
Okay.

ABBEY  
Time for me to go get dressed for dinner.  
They're coming in two hours Jed, try not  
to be late.

Abbey exits.

LEO  
You sure you want to do this one on one?

BARTLET  
I'll be fine.

LEO  
You can expect him to--

BARTLET  
I'll be fine.

Leo hesitates, then start out. Bartlet calls after him.

BARTLET  
Leo, these last months.  
(then)  
Thank you. Thank you for everything.

LEO  
I'll send him in, Mr. President.

Bartlet sits back down at his desk, pulls off his reading  
glasses. Haffley enters slowly.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET  
Mr. Speaker.

HAFFLEY  
Mr. President.

It's already a battle for positioning. Haffley stands near the chairs. He doesn't want to have this meeting with the President at the Resolute Desk.

BARTLET  
Have a seat.

Haffley reluctantly sits across from the President.

BARTLET  
How are you?

HAFFLEY  
Think I'm coming down with a cold.

BARTLET  
Yeah, it's been going around.  
(a beat)  
Well, we should get going, Abbey's having the Prime Minister and his wife over for dinner and I promised to be on time.

HAFFLEY  
Yes, I saw her cooking on CNN.  
(Bartlet waits/finally)  
So three percent for sixty days on a continuing resolution to--

BARTLET  
We're not doing another CR, Mr. Speaker.

Haffley considers Bartlet for a long time. Then:

HAFFLEY  
This room was designed to throw people off balance. Wyeth's intent was to inspire the English notion of levee--

BARTLET  
To remind guests that this is the office of the President of the United States and the person on this side of the desk is the President.

Haffley's not giving in that easily.

(CONTINUED)

HAFFLEY

Historically, the Commander-in-Chief's purview was foreign policy while Congress tended to their constituents at home. That's why the Constitution put Congress in charge of the budget.

BARTLET

And gave the President the veto.

Silence. Haffley's gonna take this as far as it goes.

BARTLET

Fortunately your Congress put together a budget. I understand more than 2,000 people worked with interest groups, unions, industry and 535 elected officials to arrive at that 15,000 page document over there.

Bartlet looks to a side table where two sets of enormous, 14-volume binders lay.

BARTLET

All fourteen appropriations bills, exactly as we left them four days ago. Took us what? Ten months to work out our differences on those bills?

HAFFLEY

We still haven't cut enough spending.

BARTLET

I agree. I want you to cut Agriculture subsidies and you want me to cut Medicaid. Again. You know I'll veto anymore Medicaid cuts and I know you won't give me any Agriculture cuts. So here we are.

HAFFLEY

Then we're back to a continuing resolution, sir, which I can probably pass with a two percent--

BARTLET

No. We were a hundred billion apart and I met you in the middle at fifty billion. Then we were fifty billion apart and I suspect if I had gone down to twenty-five, we'd be twelve billion apart.

(CONTINUED)

HAFFLEY

A billion here, a billion there, we dole it out like candy to children. Welfare paternalism, regulation, taxes and quotas are why people can't find jobs.

BARTLET

Under this government we've created the largest amount of wealth in history--

HAFFLEY

Which is a testament to the resilience of the American spirit, not Washington's bureaucrats.

BARTLET

Not everyone can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, Mr. Speaker.

HAFFLEY

I couldn't agree more, but the solution is for government to get off of people's backs. We could give every student in America ten thousand dollars a year, but instead we fund the Department of Education.

BARTLET

You're demonizing the millions of selfless teachers who are --

HAFFLEY

They're trapped in a failed system. I can't stand by--

BARTLET

(angrily)

And I won't negotiate with someone who holds a gun to my head. We had a deal. I don't care if my approval ratings drop into single digits, I will leave this government shut down until we reach an agreement.

Haffley sits there for a moment in stunned silence.

BARTLET

Any zealot can go to his grave on principles Jeff, but the true test of leadership is how long you can stay in the room.

(then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (4)

62

BARTLET (cont'd)

I am the President of the United States  
Mr. Speaker, and we're going to pass a  
budget together tonight.

\*  
\*  
\*

CUT TO:

62A INT. LEO'S OUTER OFFICE - DAY

62A

Abbey, dressed in dinner attire, is walking to the Oval, sees  
Leo sitting at Margaret's desk, looking very out of place as  
he searches for a file. She stops.

\*

ABBEY

They're still in there?

LEO

Yeah. Margaret's been sneaking in here  
in the middle of the night and leaving me  
little post-it reminders. I told  
security not to let her in the building.

ABBEY

Thank goodness they're not listening to  
you.

LEO

They know she's the only person standing  
between our semi-functioning government  
and complete chaos.

\*  
\*

ABBEY

(olive branch)

Give yourself a little credit, too.

LEO

How's the coronation chicken?

ABBEY

I don't know. Never made it before.

LEO

The dress'll keep the men from noticing.

CUT TO:

63 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY

63

Toby, Josh, C.J., Will, and Angela wait anxiously.

WILL

A hundred and ten minutes?

TOBY

Could mean anything.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.  
It's a good thing.

Josh sees Donna passing in the hall. Motions her in.

JOSH  
Hey.

DONNA  
Don't call the Feds. I'm just dropping  
off the forms for the Treasury employees--

ANGELA  
So you're the one who saved Social  
Security.

WILL  
Nice catch.

DONNA  
Thanks. I just wish, there's so much  
going on and I wish I could help more.

JOSH  
You ever hear about the NBA rookie who  
pulled his first rebound the night Wilt  
Chamberlin pulled 55?

DONNA  
Mm...mm...

JOSH  
He said it was the proudest day of his  
life. Together he and Wilt went for 34  
points and 56 rebounds.

DONNA  
I pulled a rebound?

JOSH  
You pulled 11 million.

DONNA  
I'm Wilt Chamberlin?

JOSH  
No. You're the rookie.

TOBY  
It's worth noting that Philadelphia lost  
that game.

Leo steps in and --

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (2)

63

LEO  
Haffley just left.

CUT TO:

64 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

64

Bartlet is going over paperwork at the desk as everyone steps in expectantly.

ANGELA  
Do we have a continuing resolution?

LEO  
No, a budget.

Leo grins at them. They resist the urge to scream.

JOSH  
Their cap gains tax cut?

BARTLET  
No.

TOBY  
What about the college tuition tax credit?

BARTLET  
No... But it's a tax cut. Republicans are always in favor of tax cuts. If we can find a way to make it revenue neutral next year, it stays.

Good news. Now the fifty billion dollar question.

ANGELA  
The fifty billion gap?

BARTLET  
We'd already done our part so the Speaker graciously agreed to do his.

JOSH  
He coughed up the entire fifty?

Grand slam. Home run. Josh throws his arms around Toby, Will leans across to shake the startled Angela's hand as the President catches first C.J.'s eye and then Leo's. They both smile. But there's only a glint in Bartlet's eye as we --

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

BARTLET

Okay. Abbey says I've got about five  
minutes before dinner. What's next?

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW