

THE WEST WING

"Si Finis Bonus Est, Totum Bonum Erit"

Written by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

President Bartlet fields questions from a room packed with REPORTERS. His manner is comfortable and jovial, masking his distaste for this exercise.

The Senior Staff observes from the side.

BARTLET

... discussions relating to KFOR participation and taking the lead in the Stability Pact and the rebuilding of Southeastern Europe. I have talked extensively with leaders on the Hill about the kind of resources this will take and I think that \$2.5 billion is an accurate estimate. While this is a large investment, it's one that I have every confidence in.

Twenty hands shoot up the instant the President ends his response. Bartlet surveys the room for half a beat then selects:

BARTLET (CONT'D)

Yes, Margaret.

MARGARET, a fortysomething reporter, stands to ask:

MARGARET

Mr. President, this morning the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine announced it intends to file a lawsuit in federal court alleging that the federal school breakfast program is racially biased. Would you care to comment?

BARTLET

The federal breakfast program has played a key role in improving the health and nutrition of the young people in our public schools. Without having had the benefit of reviewing the P.C.R.M.'s lawsuit, I cannot comment on why they believe the program to be racially biased.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGARET
 (deadpan)
 Because the program requires schools
 to serve milk.

Some snickers from the other reporters.

BARTLET
 (equally deadpan)
 Of course. I should have realized
 the connection myself.

The room chuckles at that. Margaret presses forward:

MARGARET
 Many African-Americans are lactose
 intolerant, Mr. President.

Bartlet pauses to consider his reaction and just long enough to
 make the following humorous:

BARTLET
 Margaret, there are moments in these
 press conferences where I find that
 the best comment is no comment.

Twenty hands shoot up again. Bartlet points to another
 REPORTER.

REPORTER (BOB)
 (standing)
 Mr. President, could you please
 confirm whether former Soviet weapons-
 grade plutonium is trading on the
 black market in Southeast Asia and
 what, if anything, the United States
 is doing about it.

Although Bartlet does his best to mask his reaction, the Senior
 Staff can see that he doesn't have the first clue what Bob is
 talking about.

BARTLET
 (covering)
 This, as you know, is a very serious
 issue and we have always been hyper-
 vigilant when it comes to the
 proliferation of former Soviet
 military surplus. Beyond that,
 however, I cannot comment without
 revealing classified information.

A good finesse, but it gives Toby concern. He coughs into his
 fist -- a signal for C.J. to approach the podium and announce:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

C.J.

Thank you. That's all the President
has time for this morning.

The Reporters begin to gather their things as C.J. heads out of the Briefing Room along with Bartlet and the rest of the Senior Staff.

FOLLOW TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Bartlet walks back to the Oval Office with the remainder of the Senior Staff in tow. He is not amused.

BARTLET

Leo, let me ask you something: I'm
still the President of the United
States, right?

LEO

(playing along)
Last I checked, sir.

BARTLET

And, as the President, I'm still the
Commander-in-Chief of the armed
forces, right?

LEO

I think that goes with the job, Mr.
President.

BARTLET

Then please tell me how it is that I
don't know that weapons-grade
plutonium is being sold by our former
enemies to our present enemies on the
black market in Southeast Asia.

Leo doesn't have an answer for that just about now.

LEO

(with a nod to Josh)
We're going to look into it.

BARTLET

See that you do.

FOLLOW TO:

INT. WEST WING HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

BARTLET

Toby --

Toby moves to the fore.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

-- notwithstanding my utter ignorance with respect to the black market trade in plutonium, how would you rate my performance?

TOBY

I thought you were brilliant, sir.

BARTLET

And are you saying that because I told you to or because I was, in fact, brilliant?

TOBY

Because you told me to.

Bartlet turns and takes stock of Toby.

BARTLET

You're having a little fun with me now, aren't you?

TOBY

(deadpan)

You'll never know, sir.

Bartlet smiles at that.

The Group has arrived at the entrance to the Oval Office. Leo takes charge:

LEO

We'll finish this up in my office.

(to Bartlet)

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Senior Staff ad libs their thanks/good-byes. As they do, Bartlet points to Leo to remind him about the plutonium issue. Leo nods, indicating that he's on top of it.

FOLLOW BARTLET TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Bartlet enters the Oval Office where Charlie and Mrs. Landingham are waiting for him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bartlet plops himself down on the couch. These press conferences are exhausting for him and, for the first time, he lets his fatigue show.

BARTLET

Everytime I do one of those press conferences, I swear it will be the last one.

(to Charlie)

Do you know why the President directly addresses the Press on occasion?

CHARLIE

Probably to keep the President accountable to the media.

BARTLET

(shakes his head)

It's to keep him humble.

(beat)

In Roman times, when Caesar would parade through the capitol with all of its cheering and adoring citizens, an attendant would sit behind his throne and whisper in his ear, "Caesar, thou art mortal." He did this to keep Caesar humble and remind him he wasn't a god.

Bartlet pauses for a beat. The fatigue disappears from his face as he gear-shifts to the next thing:

BARTLET (CONT'D)

Mrs. Landingham, what's next on the agenda?

MRS. LANDINGHAM

A meeting with representatives from the American Medical Association in the Indian Treaty Room.

Bartlet stands up. Buttons his jacket, straightens his tie.

BARTLET

I suppose the AMA now plans to lodge it's objection to schools serving milk...

Bartlet heads out of the Oval Office on his way to the Roosevelt Room.

FOLLOW TO:

INT. WEST WING HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

The President and Charlie emerge from the Oval Office and head down the corridor. As they do, a nearby Secret Service Agent talks into his shirt cuff:

SECRET SERVICE AGENT
Caesar's moving.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE/ESTABLISHING - DAY

CUT TO:

INT. WEST WING HALLWAYS - DAY

Josh and Sam walk and talk. We catch Josh in mid-rant:

JOSH

I don't see why we've gotta snap-to
everytime one of these politically
correct groups files another
harassing, Hail-Mary lawsuit.

SAM

But what if they're right and the
milk program is racially biased?

JOSH

Y'know what? It doesn't matter. Even
if we served the kids Lactaid or soy
milk, these Orwellians'd still argue
bias because the milk was white.

SAM

(straight)
We could modify the program to
include chocolate milk.

Josh's eyes go wide at the sheer offensiveness of the
suggestion. Instinctively, he looks around to make sure nobody
heard that.

JOSH

That joke's in bad taste even for me.

SAM

(serious)
Cocoa aids in the digestion of dairy
products. Most lactose-intolerant
people have no problem drinking
chocolate milk.

Josh thinks on that for a beat. Then smiles a Cheshire cat
grin. Damn if that's not a good idea...

JOSH

How do you know this stuff anyway?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM
(simply)
I'm lactose intolerant.

JOSH
(pause)
Yeah.
(pats Sam on the shoulder)
Thanks for sharing.

Josh and Sam head their separate ways, as we:

FOLLOW SAM TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Sam walks through the offices. Toby calls out to him from his office.

TOBY (O.S.)
Sam...

FOLLOW SAM TO:

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Toby is watching CNN on a television MONITOR.

TOBY
(watching TV)
You're going to want to see this.

SAM
Is this live?

TOBY
The broadcast is. The video's three days old.

ANGLE MONITOR

showing CNN's "Breaking News" broadcast of what looks like an amateur video.

In the video, we can see DEXTER PENDRAGON, 40s, dressed for winter and standing in the middle of what appears to be an ARCTIC WASTELAND.

Dexter is standing in front of the video camera, holding a red flag. He's fighting the winds as he says:

DEXTER (ON TV)
(into camera)
In the pioneering spirit of Lewis and
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEXTER (ON TV) (CONT'D)
 Clark, Christopher Columbus, and Neil
 Armstrong, I, Dexter R. Pendragon,
 claim this land, this territory, as
 the sovereign country of the Republic
 of Antarctica.

With much ceremony, Dexter plants the flag. Dexter's fifteen or-
 so "followers" applaud as Toby snaps off the TV.

TOBY
 Tell me... that I didn't just see
 that.

SAM
 You didn't just see that.

TOBY
 Except?

SAM
 You did just see that.

Toby pinches his brow in frustration.

TOBY
 Can this day get any worse?

SAM
 I think that's at least possible.

Toby takes a moment to check his schedule...

TOBY
 We have this thing.

SAM
 Yes. We do.

TOBY
 I don't want to be wasting my time
 with this guy.

SAM
 I can handle it solo, if you want.

TOBY
 I don't want you wasting your time
 with this guy.

Toby stands and collects some items from his desk.

TOBY (CONT'D)
 If I have to suffer through another
 lecture about the evils of the World
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

 TOBY (CONT'D)
 Trade Organization, I'm going to make
 sure... that I won't be suffering
 alone.

FOLLOW TOBY AND SAM TO:

INT. WEST WING HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

Toby and Sam meet up with Leo on the way to their meeting in the
 Map Room.

 TOBY
 (to Leo)
 Were you just watching CNN?

 LEO
 I saw it. So did the Secretary of
 State. So did about nine other
 countries who aren't too happy with
 us right now.

 TOBY
 Because this... lunatic is an
 American citizen.

 LEO
 For the moment.

 TOBY
 Sam and I have to go meet with the
 General President of the IBT.
 Neither one of us... wants Antarctica
 to become our problem.

 LEO
 I think it's going to become Josh's
 problem.

Sam is about to offer a word in protest of the unfairness of
 that decision.

 LEO (CONT'D)
 (with eyes locked on Sam)
But, if anyone wants to offer up a
 reason why I should make it someone
 else's problem, I'm open to
 suggestions.

 SAM
 (quickly)
 I think Josh would do a good job.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO
(nodding)
So do I.

Toby and Sam head off to their meeting as we:

CUT TO:

INT. SECRETARY OF STATE HUTCHINS' OFFICE - DAY

Josh sticks his head into the office of Secretary of State SANDER HUTCHINS, early 60s.

Sander is on the phone, but waves Josh in. Holds up his index finger to indicate he'll be just a minute.

SANDER
(into phone)
... it's not worth doing if we can't bring China to the table on the dual-use technology issue. China must learn they can no longer use American-made oscilloscopes to measure nuclear test results and they cannot use automotive toolworks to build silkworm cruise missiles. My office will get you a position paper on it by this afternoon. I have someone in my office, I have to go.

Sander hangs up the phone and gestures to Josh to sit down.

SANDER (CONT'D)
So you drew the short straw on this?

JOSH
Apparently.

Sander hands over a manila file.

SANDER
As you probably watched on CNN this morning, Dexter Pendragon -- yes, that's his real name, I checked -- is claiming ownership of his own country in Antarctica.

JOSH
I kinda thought you couldn't do that.

SANDER
International law on the issue is incredibly complex. Generally
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SANDER (CONT'D)
speaking, it makes the tax code look
like The Cat in the Hat.

Josh looks up from the file to ask:

JOSH
So in Dr. Seuss terms, we're
talking...?

SANDER
Ownership of Antarctica is generally
governed by the Antarctic Treaty
signed in 1959 by Belgium, Chile,
France, Japan, New Zealand,
Australia, Norway, South Africa, us
and the former Soviet Union.

JOSH
So what are they saying about this?
I mean, apart from laughing their
respective asses off.

SANDER
Well, this morning I received a
letter signed by the other nine
signatories "respectfully requesting
that I attend to the situation."

JOSH
What's stopping you?

SANDER
I'm the Secretary of State to the
United States of America.

JOSH
So I've heard.

SANDER
If I even take a meeting with the
King of Dexterland, or whatever the
hell he's calling his little fiefdom,
you won't be able to measure my
credibility with a teaspoon.

JOSH
So you're passing the buck back to
me.

SANDER
(with a smile)
Tell me, Josh, what's the point of
being third in line to the presidency
if you can't pull rank on occasion?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Off Josh's chagrin, we:

CUT TO:

INT. THE MAP ROOM - SAME TIME

Toby and Sam enter to greet General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, TED KOZAK. Kozak is accompanied by two other IBT REPRESENTATIVES.

Kozak is mid-50s, aggressive and belligerent. He's also hyper-aware of the presence of the two IBT reps in the room. He expends a lot of energy posturing for their benefit.

 TOBY
 (offering his hand)
 Mr. Kozak --

We don't know why yet, but Kozak bristles at that greeting. It takes him half a beat to shake Toby's hand.

 TOBY (CONT'D)
 -- I'm Toby Ziegler, the White House
 Communications Director.
 (gesturing to Sam)
 This is my deputy, Sam Seaborn.

Kozak doesn't even bother introducing his companions. He just cuts to the chase:

 KOZAK
 I said I wanted to speak with the
 President.

 TOBY
 I understand... that you've already
 met with the Secretary of Labor --

 KOZAK
 (simply)
 Windbag.

 TOBY
 (controlled)
 -- and the President... did not have
 time in his schedule for you today.

 KOZAK
 'Cause he's too busy dealing with a
 nutcase in Antarctica and a racially
 biased federal breakfast program?

Toby sighs. Struggling to contain his temper.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBY
(restrained)
The President... is busy being the
President.

Sensing the obvious tension in the room, Sam offers the voice of calm:

SAM
Mr. Kozak --
(chill from Kozak at that)
-- Mr. Ziegler and I are White House
Senior Staff-members. We have the
ear of the President. A lot of
people would be --

KOZAK
I ain't a lot of people. I'm the
President of the International
Brotherhood of Teamsters and I want
to speak with the President. As. I.
Had. Asked.

Kozak has brought tension into the room which you could cut with a knife. Off this, we:

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - SAME TIME

The President and Leo are meeting with Admiral Fitzwallace and Director, Central Intelligence WALTER CLANCY.

Fitzwallace and Clancy are also accompanied by BRUCE COBB, a twentysomething intellectual.

DIRECTOR CLANCY
It's unfortunate that the media has
learned of the containment problem
we've been experiencing with respect
to Soviet plutonium.

LEO
I think our concern is not so much
that the media knew about it, but
that we didn't.

ADMIRAL FITZWALACE
(to Bartlet)
Mr. President, we're aware that the
ball has been dropped.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRUCE COBB

But we've picked it up and --
(with a nod to Fitzwallace
and Clancy)
-- we feel confident in saying that
we expect this problem to be resolved
by tomorrow at the latest.

BARTLET

I wish that I could share in your
confidence. But since the three of
you failed to even inform me that
there was a problem in the first
place, and you still haven't told me
how you plan to fix it, I don't sit
here assuaged.

The words hang in the air for a beat like rolling thunder.

ADMIRAL FITZWALACE

Mr. President, I'm afraid that we
cannot be as candid as we would
normally be because the specific
details of this problem and the
operation to resolve it are
classified at the highest level.

Bartlet nods his understanding. Turns to Leo:

BARTLET

Give us a moment alone, would you
please?

BRUCE COBB

Actually, Mr. President... for us to
discuss this, you would... both have
to leave the room.

BARTLET

(trying to see the humor)
Son, I know this is probably your
first visit to the White House, but if
there was any doubt, this is the Oval
Office, that's the presidential seal,
and I am, in fact, the President.

Cobb withers away. Fitzwallace jumps in:

ADMIRAL FITZWALACE

Mr. President, there are some,
limited areas which are so highly
classified, even the President does
not have access.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bartlett and Leo both register shock.

BARTLET
(pointing to Cobb)
You mean this kid has higher security clearance than me?

DIRECTOR CLANCY
With regard to this specific matter, yes.

BARTLET
I'm not inquiring into the Kennedy assassination. I'm asking a question about national security.

ADMIRAL FITZWALACE
Be that as it may, sir, this is not the first administration to be denied access to certain high security intelligence and I doubt it will be the last.

Allow a beat for Bartlett to take that in. He's not pleased.

BARTLET
We'll see about that, Admiral.

ADMIRAL FITZWALACE
As Mr. Cobb said, Mr. President, we are confident that this matter will become moot by the end of business tomorrow.

BARTLET
Regardless, we're going to take this other issue up again later.

ADMIRAL FITZWALACE
Yes sir.

At that point, Mrs. Landingham enters. Politely asks:

MRS. LANDINGHAM
Mr. President? If you are almost finished here, Mr. Ziegler has a matter which requires your attention in the Map Room.

BARTLET
I'll be there momentarily, Mrs. Landingham.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Bartlet stands, signaling an end to the meeting. Fitzwallace, et al. make due their escape out the main exit, as Bartlet and Leo exit through the President's private study.

FOLLOW TO:

INT. PRESIDENT'S STUDY - CONTINUOUS

BARTLET

I know I asked earlier, but in light of what just happened in there... I am still the President, right? There wasn't a coup directly after lunch, was there?

LEO

I think I would've gotten wind of one, sir.

BARTLET

I'm not so sure. It sounds like there's a lot going on we don't know about.

LEO

It's the way it's done. I wouldn't worry about it.

BARTLET

I'm not worried, but it makes me wonder what else they're not telling me.

FOLLOW TO:

INT. WEST WING HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

BARTLET

Maybe the military did kill Kennedy. Maybe the CIA is trading arms for hostages even as we speak.

LEO

I think you're over-reacting just a little.

BARTLET

I'm not so sure. But I'll tell you, I'm thinking of Area-51 in a whole new light.

The pair arrives at and enters:

INT. THE MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

All present (Toby, Sam, Kozak and others) stand to mark the arrival of the President and Leo.

BARTLET
Keep your seats.
(to Toby)
What have we got here, Toby?

Before Toby can answer, Kozak stands up.

KOZAK
Mr. Bartlet --

Mr. Bartlet? That's not lost on Bartlet or Leo.

BARTLET
(good-naturedly)
Actually, it's Doctor Bartlet.

LEO
Actually, it's customary for visitors to the White House to address the President as "Mr. President."

KOZAK
I just thought you guys were more informal around here, seeing as how I'm the President of the Teamsters and these guys --
(gestures to Toby and Sam)
-- kept calling me "Mr. Kozak."

Bartlet can see the type of jerk he's dealing with. He doesn't have time for this. Sits down and cuts to the chase:

BARTLET
(to Kozak)
Why don't you tell us why you're here.

KOZAK
I'm here to draw your attention to the threat the World Trade Organization poses to the livelihoods of millions of American working men.

BARTLET
We live in an age of global economy. The WTO is essential to that economy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KOZAK

Since the boys in Congress passed NAFTA in '93, the U.S. has lost more than 600,000 manufacturing jobs. With the WTO expanding its power, that number's only gotten worse.

Leo decides to jump in:

LEO

We have the largest peacetime economic expansion in decades.

KOZAK

I got no doubt the multinational corporations have benefited, but what about the working man?

TOBY

The rate of unemployment is at an all-time low of four percent.

KOZAK

For now. What happens when the bulls stop running, huh? We're gonna be missing those 600,000 jobs and unemployment will be at an all-time high.

BARTLET

You have to trust us to know what we're doing.

KOZAK

That's the thing. We don't trust you.

Much too harsh. The room goes quiet. A beat.

LEO

I think you meant to rephrase that.

KOZAK

My phrasing was fine. We don't trust Congress to look out for the working man.

TOBY

That is part of their job.

KOZAK

Then they're not doing it. In 1994, when the GATT/WTO bill was passed,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KOZAK (CONT'D)

know how many congressmen read the entire bill? One.

SAM

These bills are thousands of pages long. If every congressman had to read every word of every bill, nothing would pass.

Kozak fixes his eyes on Bartlet.

KOZAK

Bottom line, there are 1.4 million teamsters in the U.S. and Canada. They don't trust you to protect them. They trust me.

BARTLET

And I know you take that responsibility seriously.

KOZAK

Damn straight. So here's what I'm saying: We want the U.S. to take a leading role in halting the expansion of the WTO's authority; we want basic and enforceable workers rights incorporated into the WTO's rules; and we want labor to have a seat at the international bargaining table.

Bartlet gestures to Sam, who has been writing all of these "demands" down.

BARTLET

(consummate politician)

Duly noted. I appreciate your concerns and promise you that we will look hard at addressing them.

Bartlet stands up and offers his hand, happy to be finished with this. But Kozak remains seated.

KOZAK

Not good enough.

Bartlett stares back at Kozak. Who the hell is this guy? Beat.

BARTLET

For now, it will have to be.

KOZAK

I don't think so. There are over a million Teamsters in this country.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KOZAK (CONT'D)

Factory workers. Truck drivers.
Airline attendants. The
entertainment industry. I can bring
it all to a halt.

BARTLET

What are you trying to say?

KOZAK

I'm sayin' you may be President of
the country, but I'm President of the
Teamsters and I can shut the country
down.

Off Kozak's stone-cold stare, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. WEST WING HALLWAYS - AFTERNOON

Josh and Donna walk and talk.

DONNA
He's coming here?

JOSH
He flew out of Australia yesterday.

DONNA
Why would anyone want to live in Antarctica anyway?

JOSH
Donna, this guy thinks he can run his own country. What makes you think he's rational?

DONNA
I work with you, Josh. I know being rational isn't exactly a requirement for running a country.

JOSH
I can have you fired you know.

DONNA
I know.

JOSH
And yet you're not the least bit intimidated.

DONNA
Not particularly, no.

JOSH
Gonna haveta work on that...

Josh and Donna split off in opposite directions. STAY WITH Josh as he heads to:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Bartlet, Leo, Sam, Toby and C.J. are already present. Josh enters.

JOSH
You've gotta be kidding me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

I just got off the phone with the Vice-President of the Teamsters. They're organizing a nationwide vote right now.

C.J.

To strike?

LEO

Yeah.

C.J.

Against the country?

LEO

They're organizing a nationwide protest against the World Trade Organization.

Bartlett paces. Waves at Toby.

BARTLET

Toby, just who exactly is Ted Kozak and why is he looking to create a national crisis?

TOBY

He was elected IBT General President just six months ago. He's new, he's inexperienced, and he's looking... to make a national statement.

BARTLET

So you think this is all an exercise for the benefit of his ego?

TOBY

I think... that Mr. Kozak is just crazy enough to be taken seriously.

Bartlett thinks about this for a beat. Points to Leo:

BARTLET

Go talk to him. Outside of the White House, one on one. Tell him we will work with the Teamsters to address their concerns. Calm him down.

Leo nods. The President dismisses the group. Everyone but Bartlett exits.

STAY WITH Sam and C.J. as they walk to:

INT. WEST WING HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

Sam and C.J. walk and talk:

C.J.
Aren't you bothered?

SAM
That the nation's largest organized labor union is threatening a strike against the country? Yeah, I'm a little concerned.

C.J.
No. Aren't you bothered that the Teamsters might be right?

SAM
I would be, except for one thing.

C.J.
And what's that?

SAM
They're not right.

C.J.
Maybe they are. Global trade is good for big business, but big business is sending American jobs to other countries.

SAM
Because those countries are stuck in the industrial age and we're moving into the information age.

C.J.
But we're not taking the blue collar worker with us. Not everybody can be an accountant or an internet mogul --
(pointed, for Sam's benefit)
-- or a lawyer.

Sam stops walking. Turns and faces C.J.

SAM
Two hundred years ago, the nation had an agrarian economy. That all changed with the industrial revolution.

C.J.
So?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

So, when the foundation of the country's economy changes, old jobs go away and new jobs are created.

C.J.

In other words, today's workers have to find tomorrow's jobs.

Sam points at her.

SAM

Exactly.

C.J.

My father works in a factory in Lansing, Michigan. He makes turbine engines for 747s.

Sam looks at C.J., not quite getting her point.

C.J. (CONT'D)

He's done it for forty years and he doesn't know how to do anything else.

Sam considers this and nods understandingly, as we:

CUT TO:

INT. WEST WING HALLWAYS - SAME TIME

Back from the Oval Office meeting, Josh encounters Donna.

DONNA

He's waiting in your office.

JOSH

Who's waiting in my office?

Donna does a poor job of concealing her amusement at this.

DONNA

The President of the Republic of Antarctica.

JOSH

He's not the president of anything, Donna.

Josh heads off to his office.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONNA
 (calling after)
 Try not to start an international
 incident.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Josh enters to find: DEXTER PENDRAGON. Despite expectations, Dexter doesn't look like a crackpot. He looks like a college professor and is extremely well-spoken.

Throughout this scene, Josh will try, with varying degrees of success, to mask his amusement at the sheer absurdity of this conversation.

Josh takes stock of Dexter for a beat, then:

JOSH
 Hi.
 (pause as he searches for the
 right title)
 Y'know, I'm not really sure what to
 call you.

DEXTER
 Mr. Pendragon will suffice.

JOSH
 Sorry. I just thought that you'd
 want to be called "Your Majesty" or
 "Mr. President" or something.

DEXTER
 I'm not a lunatic, Mr. Lyman.

Josh sits down. Sighs.

JOSH
 (under his breath)
 All evidence to the contrary.

Dexter absorbs that and then presses forward, undeterred.

DEXTER
 I would have thought that a
 conversation with the leader of a
 sovereign nation would be more
 appropriate with the Secretary of
 State.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH
 (what bullshit)
 Yeah.
 (sigh/deep breath)
 Well, the fact that the State
 Department's not involved should give
 you some sense of what the United
 States government thinks of your
 claim of sovereignty.

Dexter removes some PAPERS from his briefcase and hands them to
 Josh.

DEXTER
 A little background, Mr. Lyman: The
 ownership of Antarctica is divided up
 into pie-slices with New Zealand,
 Chile, France, Australia, Argentina,
 Norway and the United Kingdom each
 claiming a piece --

Josh throws his hands up and leans back in his chair:

JOSH
 See? The continent is spoken for.

Dexter reaches over and points on the map he's just handed Josh.

DEXTER
Except for one sector located near
 the Bentley Subglacial Trench which
 remains unclaimed.

JOSH
 Until now, right?

DEXTER
 Precisely.

JOSH
 Mr. Poindexter --

Dexter holds up a finger.

DEXTER
 Pendragon. Dexter Pendragon.

JOSH
 Mr. Pendragon, since 1924 the United
 States has had one position on
 sovereignty claims: You wanna own
 it, you gotta live there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DEXTER

I know. That's fine.

Josh really can't believe what he's hearing.

JOSH

You know that it's twenty-two degrees below freezing most of the year and the nights last for six months. There's, like, solar radiation --

DEXTER

That, Mr. Lyman, is my problem. Yours is that I have a valid and legal claim to this land.

JOSH

You don't.

DEXTER

I do.

JOSH

No, you don't, and I've gotta tell 'ya, if you stay there, we're gonna have to remove you.

Dexter is taken aback by that.

DEXTER

Is that a threat?

JOSH

(simply)
It's... a fact.

Dexter stands up. Indignant. Points a defiant finger at Josh:

DEXTER

Have a care, Mr. Lyman. Your flippant attitude toward my country's claim of sovereignty could escalate this from an international incident to a state of war between our two nations.

A beat passes as Josh struggles mightily not to laugh.

JOSH

Mr. Pendragon... just so I can accurately convey this story to my co-workers... Are you threatening war against the United States of America?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DEXTER

(with ceremony)

By God, Mr. Lyman, I hope it does not come to that.

JOSH

No kidding, because you are aware that the United States Army is kinda impressive.

DEXTER

I'm not afraid of you, Mr. Lyman, and neither are my fellow Antarticans.

Josh struggles not to take the bait. He fails. He leans in close to Dexter and, as menancingly as possible, says:

JOSH

You want a fight pal, you got one. You've probably never been on the business end of the 82nd Airborne, but believe me, they put on quite a show. First they're gonna soften you up with long-range artillery fire, okay? Then the ground pounders come in and they're gonna turn Dexterland into the bottom of a Shake 'n Bake bag. Or you know what? Antartica's in the middle of nowhere, so we don't haveta limit ourselves to conventional weapons. We can go nuclear and leave you and your "fellow Antarticans" glowing in the dark for about the next fifty years.

Dexter absorbs all that with dignity. A beat. Then:

DEXTER

(simply)

I expect a response from the State Department within twenty-four hours regarding my country's claim of sovereignty.

And, with that, Dexter storms out of Josh's office. A beat.

Josh stabs a button on his intercom, allowing us to HEAR the sound of hysterical LAUGHTER.

JOSH

(into intercom)

Donna, how many times do I have to tell you not to eavesdrop when I'm in a meeting?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Donna continues to laugh uncontrollably.

DONNA (V.O.)
(laughing)
Should I get the 82nd Airborne on the
phone?

JOSH
Donna, I forbid you to enjoy this.

DONNA (V.O.)
(between laughs)
Too late.

As Donna continues to laugh, we:

CUT TO:

INT. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL/GEORGETOWN - EARLY EVENING

Leo sits with Ted Kozak in the hotel restaurant. Just the two
of them.

LEO
The President is sensitive to your
concerns and he's willing to work
with you to address them.

KOZAK
Not good enough, Mr. McGarry.

LEO
We've gotta cooperate on this --

KOZAK
Y'know, I don't see how we can
cooperate when you don't get where
I'm coming from.

LEO
You're concerned that the WTO is
costing American workers their jobs.

KOZAK
Yeah, but you don't seem to take that
as seriously as I do.

That dig gets Leo's back up. He firmly but politely indicates:

LEO
I take offense at that. I, we take
it very seriously.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KOZAK

Didn't seem that way today. I came to the President with my problem and all I got was a handshake and a pat on the head.

LEO

We're talking about the World Trade Organization. There are other countries involved. The President can't offer an instant solution.

KOZAK

Maybe that's 'cause the President doesn't understand what's goin' on here. Maybe what the President needs is an object lesson to teach you what would happen to this country without the working man.

LEO

And I'm telling you it doesn't have to, and shouldn't, come to that.

We HEAR a beep from Kozak's pager. He checks it. Beat.

KOZAK

It's already done, Mr. McGarry. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters just voted to authorize a strike against the United States of America.

Off Leo's reaction, we:

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - MORNING (THE NEXT DAY)

Fifty or so protesters lined up in front of the White House. They carry signs with slogans like: "No to the WTO", "America First", "Global Economy = Sweatshops", etc.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - MORNING

We HEAR the sounds of multiple VOICES overlapping. The sound of crisis.

A crowded room: The President, Leo, the Secretary of Labor (CAMERON POGUE), the Secretary of Transportation (WILMA REYNOLDS) and three Senators (MESSENGER, RYCKMAN, and DAVIES).

Everyone's talking all at once. We HEAR only pieces:

SENATOR MESSENGER
... shut down the entire
country...

SECRETARY POGUE
... not my fault...

SENATOR RYCKMAN
... no deliveries, no
shipments ...

SECRETARY REYNOLDS
... highways are barren...

SENATOR DAVIES
... just give them what they
want...

LEO
Could we have some order here
please?

Etc. Etc. Leo tries to get everyone to quiet down, but is unsuccessful. Then, we HEAR:

VOICE (O.S.)
EXCUSE ME!

Everyone goes silent and turns to face:

PRESIDENT BARTLET

who is on his feet, calling for order.

BARTLET
If everyone's finished yelling at
each other, there are one or two
topics which I'd like to discuss.

Order restored, everyone sits down. Bartlet turns to Secretary of Labor Pogue:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET (CONT'D)

Cameron, what are we looking at here?

SECRETARY POGUE

The near-incapacitation of our shipping and delivery infrastructure. A severe crippling of domestic factories --

SENATOR MESSENGER

Not to mention a public relations nightmare of the highest order.

LEO

But there are less than a million Teamsters actually on strike...

SECRETARY POGUE

Yes, but several other unions are refusing to, for lack of a better term, cross the picket lines.

This concerns Senator Messenger significantly:

SENATOR MESSENGER

(animated)

If the AFL-CIO decides to join in this protest --

Bartlet holds his hand up.

BARTLET

One problem at a time, Jim. Let's not get ahead of ourselves.

SENATOR DAVIES

I just don't see how this can be legal.

BARTLET

The Attorney General informs me that it is.

LEO

Nothin's forcing these people to go into work today.

Senator Ryckman leans forward.

SENATOR RYCKMAN

Fire 'em. Fire 'em all.

That gets the room's attention.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SENATOR MESSENGER
(temper flaring)
He can't fire nearly a million
American workers.

SENATOR RYCKMAN
Why not? They're shutting down the
whole damn country.

SECRETARY REYNOLDS
Reagan fired the air traffic
controllers in the early '80s.

LEO
This is different.

SECRETARY REYNOLDS
How?

LEO
Well, for one thing, the President
doesn't employ these people so it's
not like he can fire them.

Bartlett holds his hand up.

BARTLET
Even if I could, I'm not going to put
nearly a million men and women out of
work solely for making a political
statement.

SENATOR RYCKMAN
(incredulous)
Is that what you think this is?

BARTLET
The Teamsters are not striking for
better hours or better wages. They
are protesting the expansive power of
the World Trade Organization.

Not everyone in the room appreciates that characterization.

LEO
Does anybody have any other ideas?

SECRETARY REYNOLDS
The President could issue an
executive order.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEO

The President can't order a million people back to work any more than he could fire them.

This sets off another round of arguing/yelling/debating:

SECRETARY POGUE

... not about politics...

SENATOR MESSENGER

... President wimping out on this...

SENATOR DAVIES

... raised some valid concerns...

SECRETARY REYNOLDS

.... limits on presidential authority...

The President SLAMS his hand down on the table. The room goes silent.

BARTLET

We have a real problem here and it's not going to get solved by internal bickering.

(beat)

Now, can anyone propose a workable solution?

Nothing from the room. Silence for several beats.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

That's what I thought.

Off Bartlet's frustration, we:

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - SAME TIME

C.J. does her best to corral twenty reporters, all of whom are excited and anxious.

C.J.

(pointing to a reporter)

Yes, Barbara --

REPORTER (BARBARA)

C.J., is the President going to issue a statement regarding the Teamsters strike and, if so, will that statement indicate a course of action for resolving the strike and, if not, does that mean that the President has not decided on a course of action?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

C.J.
Yes. Possibly. No.

Twenty hands shoot up like rockets, as we:

CUT TO:

INT. SAM'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Sam at his desk. Toby is there as well, reviewing a draft of the statement to the Media which Sam has written.

TOBY
We should change "strike" to
"protest."

SAM
It's a strike.

TOBY
Against who? The federal government
doesn't employ these people. It's a
protest.

SAM
Doesn't that make it sound... noble?

TOBY
Maybe it is.

SAM
Toby, they've shut the entire country
down.

Toby puts his hand to his cheek in thought.

TOBY
Maybe they've got a point.

SAM
You sound like C.J.

TOBY
Maybe C.J. has a point.

SAM
Look, you can't have a global economy
without international trade.

TOBY
I'm sure that I read that somewhere.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

And international trade means that our workers are going to have to compete for jobs with international workers.

TOBY

It's not a fair fight.

Sam looks at Toby with confusion.

SAM

Fair fight?

TOBY

It's not a fair fight. The countries we're losing American jobs to don't have the same human rights and labor laws that America does.

SAM

That's not the WTO's fault.

TOBY

The WTO... prohibits us from banning trade from sweatshop countries.

Toby sighs. They're both frustrated. Everyone's frustrated by this strike. A beat.

SAM

Even if the Teamsters are right, it doesn't justify a strike of this magnitude.

Toby holds up a finger to correct Sam:

TOBY

It's a protest.

INT. WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICES - SAME TIME

C.J. steps out of the Press Briefing Room. She looks exhausted.

Josh walks up behind her.

JOSH

That looked tough.

C.J.

Just tell me you've come up with a solution to this mess.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH
Okay. But I'd be lying.

C.J.
(dry)
If you're not going to be of any help
on this, you should move to Antarctica.

JOSH
Nah, I have this thing about cold
weather.

A beat as they round a corner.

C.J.
I heard that you threatened him with
the Marines.

JOSH
(deadpan)
It was the 82nd Airborne, actually.

C.J.
Why don't you give the poor guy a
break?

JOSH
Because this "poor guy" has what
looks like a pretty valid claim.

C.J.
(incredulous)
To Antarctica?

JOSH
Not the whole continent. Just a
piece of it.

C.J.
And he wants to live there?

JOSH
That seems to be the plan, yeah.

C.J.
Josh, what seems more likely to you:
That this --

C.J. pauses to search for the right word.

JOSH
(offering)
I've found the term "wackjob" to be
pretty appropriate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

C.J.

-- this person wants to live in Antarctica or that he is milking his fifteen minutes of fame for all they're worth?

Josh thinks about that for a beat. Considers it.

JOSH

(the nickel drops)
This guy's just looking for attention.

C.J.

(sarcastically dry)
No, Josh, he wants to live in the middle of an arctic wasteland.

Josh heads off to solve his problem.

JOSH

(over his shoulder)
Thanks, C.J.
(calling out)
Donna! Get His Majesty on the phone...

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The President with Leo. The mood is somber.

BARTLET

The Communications Office has fielded phone calls from the CEO of every major and not so major corporation in the country. The Republicans are pointing the finger at me... How did we let it get this far, Leo?

LEO

This is not our fault, Mr. President. Ted Kozak is a lunatic.

BARTLET

Be that as it may, this "lunatic" has managed to convince nearly one million workers to follow his lead.

LEO

They're scared. They're in fear for their jobs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET

How can that be with an unemployment rate of less than four percent?

LEO

People are scared of the future.

Bartlet nods. Beat.

BARTLET

We need to fix this, Leo.

LEO

I know.

BARTLET

But all I can think of doing is strangling this Kozak with my bare hands.

LEO

And all I can think of doing is holding him down for you.

The President chuckles at that.

BARTLET

You know, I can't help but wonder if the CIA has come up with a solution to this problem, but won't tell me because it's top secret.

LEO

You might want to let that go, Mr. President.

Bartlet smiles, as we:

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Josh is meeting again with Dexter Pendragon.

DEXTER

Quite frankly, I had not expected to receive a response from your office so soon, Mr. Lyman.

JOSH

Well, there's kind of a national crisis brewing and what with me being Deputy White House Chief of Staff, I kinda wanted to get this off my plate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dexter smiles with satisfaction.

DEXTER

So I take it that you are acknowledging my country's claim of sovereignty?

JOSH

I'm "acknowledging" that this is a problem which I just want to make go away.

DEXTER

Just concede to my claim and I'll take my leave of you.

JOSH

You know I can't do that.

DEXTER

Why not?

Josh leans forward.

JOSH

Look, I don't care that the sector you're living in is unclaimed, I don't care that you and your whatevers are occupying the land -- the entire continent is covered by the 1959 Antarctic Treaty.

DEXTER

So?

JOSH

So, the Treaty was signed by the United States and you're a United States citizen.

DEXTER

You have clearly done your homework, Mr. Lyman.

JOSH

Thanks. This is, after all, the White House.

DEXTER

And having done your homework, you know that the law in this area is very complex and it could take years to litigate my claim to the land.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Josh takes a deep breath and summons the patience to say:

JOSH
I know that. And the State
Department doesn't want the
embarrassment of the court fight. So
I'm willing to --
(almost chokes on the word)
-- compromise.

DEXTER
What did you have in mind?

JOSH
(deadpan)
An official White House pen and an
autographed picture of the President.

Dexter ponders this for a beat.

JOSH (CONT'D)
(a reminder)
The 82nd Airborne is on standby.

DEXTER
(beat)
I want to meet the President.

JOSH
(under his breath)
I was afraid you'd say that.

DEXTER
Just for five minutes.

Josh considers it. What's the harm?

JOSH
One handshake.

DEXTER
Two minutes.

JOSH
Thirty seconds, but you've gotta
submit to a strip search before
setting foot in the Oval Office.

DEXTER
Done.

Josh rests his head in his hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOSH
(to himself)
I can't believe I'm agreeing to this.

DEXTER
And... I would still like that pen
and autograph.

INT. WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICES - DAY

Sam and C.J. walk and talk.

C.J.
Did you know that the richest twenty
percent of the world consumes eighty-
six percent of the world's resources?

SAM
Yes, but I don't see --

C.J.
That means that the countries who are
already rich are the only ones
benefiting from global trade.

SAM
Yes, but how is the other fourteen
percent of the world supposed to
reverse their fortunes without global
trade?

Touché.

C.J.
Are you and Josh any closer to
figuring out a solution to this mess?

SAM
No.

As they go their separate ways:

C.J.
That's probably because you're
wasting time debating with me.

FOLLOW C.J. TO:

INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

C.J. enters to find Danny Concannon waiting for her.

DANNY
Hey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

C.J.

Hey.

DANNY

Got a minute?

C.J.

I don't have any new info, Danny.
The lid is on.

DANNY

I've got some info for you.

C.J. sits down at her desk. Her interest piqued.

C.J.

Okay.

DANNY

Not so fast. Quid pro quo.

C.J.

You're Hannibal Lecter now?

DANNY

Our personal --

C.J.

Association.

DANNY

-- notwithstanding, it's not like we
play for the same team.

C.J.

What do you need?

DANNY

Five minutes with the President on
this plutonium thing.

C.J. shakes her head emphatically.

C.J.

It's classified.

DANNY

C.J. --

C.J.

It's classified, Danny. I can't get
five minutes with the President on
that issue.

(then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

C.J. (CONT'D)

If we come to an agreement with the Teamsters, I'll give you a fifteen-minute head start.

DANNY

Not good enough.

C.J.

It'll have to be. You can write whatever you want, but no one's going to read it because the paper won't get delivered.

C.J. has a point. Beat.

DANNY

I still want the fifteen-minute head start.

C.J.

What have you got?

DANNY

I know a guy who knows a guy who's highly placed at the IBT.

C.J.

And?

DANNY

And not all the Teamsters are so enthusiastic about this strike.

C.J.

We're calling it a protest.

DANNY

Whatever. The thing is, if you guys can find the right pressure point on Kozak, whatever coalition he's formed at the Teamsters will fold like a deck-chair.

C.J. is animated.

C.J.

I could kiss you right now.

DANNY

Hold on tight to that thought 'cause that was the good news.

C.J.

What's the bad news?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANNY

I have another source who says that if this thing's not resolved by tomorrow, the AFL-CIO is gonna join the fight and all of their union members are going on strike, too.

This is very serious. Off C.J.'s concern, we:

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT III

ACT FOUR

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Even more protesters than before. Louder, too.

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - AFTERNOON

The Senior Staff is meeting with the President.

LEO

If the AFL-CFO decides to join this strike, a twenty-four hour P.R. problem becomes a national crisis.

BARTLET

(to his Staff)

The idea window is closing. If anyone can think of a way out of this, now's the time.

Instinctively, all eyes turn to Josh. Beat.

JOSH

Why's everybody looking at me?

TOBY

Perhaps it would help... if we called in the 82nd Airborne.

JOSH

You had to be there, okay?

Toby steps up to the President.

TOBY

Mr. President, there is one thing that we haven't quite tried.

BARTLET

You have my attention, Mr. Ziegler.

TOBY

The Bully Pulpit.

Josh wags his finger. Toby may be on to something...

JOSH

Y'know, the President hasn't gone one-on-one with Kozak yet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO
It's worth a try.

BARTLET
Particularly since we couldn't be in
any worse shape than we are now.
(to Toby)
Please extend an invitation to Mr.
Kozak.

Toby nods and the Senior Staff (except for Leo) exit.

BARTLET (CONT'D)
(to Leo)
Is that offer to hold Kozak down
while I strangle him still open?

LEO
It's probably best if you do this one
on one.

BARTLET
You're probably right.
(beat)
I don't need anyone to hold him down.

Leo smiles. The door opens and Mr. Landingham announces the arrival of Admiral Fitzwallace.

FITZWALLACE
Mr. President.

BARTLET
Admiral.

FITZWALLACE
Mr. President, I just wanted to
personally inform you that the matter we
spoke of yesterday has been resolved.

BARTLET
But you're not going to tell me how.

FITZWALLACE
By virtue of my past performance, I
assume that I've earned your trust.

BARTLET
You have, Admiral.

FITZWALLACE
Then trust me when I tell you that
it's S.O.P. for certain limited
areas to be classified to even the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FITZWALLACE (CONT'D)
 C-in-C. Also trust me that I will
 never compromise your interests or
 those of the country.

Bartlet reflects on that for a beat. He offers his hand.

BARTLET
 I suppose that will have to do for
 now.

FITZWALLACE
 (shaking hands)
 Thank you, Mr. President.

Fitzwallace makes his way out of the Oval Office. As he does:

BARTLET
 Oh, Admiral? We're not...
 (waves his hands)
 ...storing alien spacecraft anywhere
 in Nevada, are we?

FITZWALLACE
 (straight)
 In Nevada?
 (thinks)
 No sir.

With that, Fitzwallace exits, as we:

CUT TO:

INT. WEST WING HALLWAYS - AFTERNOON

Sam talks with his secretary, Cathy, on the way to Sam's office...

CATHY
 The Surgeon General called twice.
 She's not happy.

SAM
 Why?

CATHY
 Because you didn't return the first
 call.

SAM
 Yes, I know why she called twice.
 Why is she unhappy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CATHY

Did you suggest that the federal school breakfast program serve chocolate --?

SAM

(tired of this)

I wasn't making a joke. That was a legitimate suggestion.

CATHY

I don't think that's the --

SAM

Cocoa aids in the digestion of lactose. It's a scientific fact.

CATHY

I think the S.G. was more concerned with the lack of nutritional value in chocolate --

Sam throws his hands up in frustration.

SAM

You've gotta be kidding me!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The President and Ted Kozak. In the middle of a heated argument.

BARTLET

(charged)

You've gotta be kidding me!

KOZAK

I've been negotiating with management long enough to know when I've got 'em by the short hairs.

Bartlet looks at Kozak, his eyes wide. A beat.

BARTLET

(charged but contained)

Mr. Kozak, you would do well to remind yourself that you are standing in the Oval Office and addressing the President of the United States of America.

Kozak stares back. Defiant.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KOZAK

I'm not impressed and I'm not intimidated.

BARTLET

(pointed)

Perhaps you should be.

Kozak shrugs his shoulders.

KOZAK

Something tells me, if you had a card to play, you'd have played it by now.

Beat.

BARTLET

You're new at this. You're untested. You're looking to make a name for yourself.

(cutting to the bone)

Do you really want to do that by crippling the country?

KOZAK

It's the WTO that's crippling the country.

BARTLET

I'm not saying that the WTO doesn't have it's faults. But a nationwide strike is not the answer.

KOZAK

Like you, I ran out of options.

BARTLET

We can work together on this.

KOZAK

We already tried. Didn't take.

BARTLET

We can try harder.

Kozak considers this for a beat.

KOZAK

I'd be willing to compromise if I had a reason to. I don't have a reason to.

Nothing from Bartlet. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KOZAK (CONT'D)

I take it we're done?

Bartlet dismisses him with a wave of his hand. Kozak exits as Leo, Josh, Toby and Charlie enter.

LEO

Didn't work?

BARTLET

He was decidedly unimpressed with the power of my office.

Allow a beat for everyone to gather their thoughts.

JOSH

The A.G.'s office hasn't come up with a way out of this?

BARTLET

No. According to the Attorney General, what the Teamsters are doing is completely legal.

(to Toby)

What about the AFL-CIO?

TOBY

I have a meeting with the executive board in fifteen minutes.

Bartlett points at Toby.

BARTLET

Do not let this get any more out of control.

Toby nods. Josh is about to exit when he remembers something and says:

JOSH

Mr. President? It's probably a bad time to mention this, but I need you to spare thirty seconds to meet with somebody.

BARTLET

Who?

JOSH

The President of Antarctica.

BARTLET

There's no President of Antarctica.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOSH
 (nodding)
 And to keep it that way, you've got to meet with this guy for thirty seconds.

BARTLET
 (remembering)
 This is the nut on CNN yesterday?

JOSH
 Yes sir.

BARTLET
 (frustrated)
 Josh, tell me, at what point did we become vulnerable to every lunatic who feels he can blackmail the United States government?

Josh pauses. Wheels turning. The President looks at Josh for an answer. A grin creeps across his face...

JOSH
 Charlie? Make sure that Mr. Kozak hasn't left the grounds...

TIME CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

Kozak meets again with the President, Leo and Josh.

JOSH
 (to Kozak)
 Here's the thing: If this strike doesn't end tonight, tomorrow the Attorney General is going to seek an indictment against the Teamsters under the RICO Act.

KOZAK
 Is this some kinda threat?

JOSH
 It's the best kind of threat.

Bartlet leans forward.

BARTLET
 You see, Mr. Kozak, under RICO a person or group of persons can be imprisoned for extortion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

See, your little strike isn't really a strike since none of your Teamsters are federal employees. What this really is is an attempt to blackmail the federal government into giving you what you want.

BARTLET

It's called extortion and it's a federal felony.

JOSH

The Justice Department has already had a lot of success corralling rabid anti-abortion protesters with the RICO act.

Kozak assesses the situation.

KOZAK

This will never stand up in court.

JOSH

Wanna risk finding out?

KOZAK

(to Bartlet)

Mr. President, I'm surprised you're permitting this.

BARTLET

You've left me no choice.

Bartlet leans back and paraphrases what Kozak said to him earlier:

BARTLET (CONT'D)

The simple fact of the matter is that you may be President of the Teamsters, but I'm President of the country and I can shut the Teamsters down.

Checkmate. A beat.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

I don't want it to come to that. Nothing has happened today that can't be undone. As far as I'm concerned, the events of the last twenty-four hours are merely the product of your inexperience. As you grow into your position, we can find ways to work together to address your concerns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Kozak thinks on this.

KOZAK

The WTO is a problem which has got to be addressed.

BARTLET

And it will be. In the appropriate manner.

Bartlet stands up and offers his hand. An olive branch. Kozak accepts it. Shakes it tightly.

CLOSE ON THE HANDSHAKE

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - EVENING

The President dressed up in his "public appearance suit." An AIDE is applying pancake to his face. Charlie enters.

CHARLIE

They're ready for you in the Press Room.

The Aide finishes up. Bartlett thanks her and she exits. Once the Aide is out of the room, Bartlett lets out a deep sigh.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Are you okay, Mr. President? You look a little tired.

BARTLET

It's been a long day, Charlie. A very long day. However... *si finis bonus est, totum bonum erit.*

Charlie looks at Bartlett, confused.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

(translating)

"All's well that ends well."

(then)

The Teamsters are no longer on strike, Soviet plutonium is no longer trading on the black market, the 82nd Airborne is not on standby off the coast of Antarctica, and there are no UFOs in Nevada.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

The President addresses the media in the room where we began.
FLASHBULBS pop like fireworks.

BARTLET

My fellow Americans, I am pleased to
inform you that the International
Brotherhood of Teamsters has ended
its protest and that all concerned
will return to work tomorrow.

(beat)

In light of this recent crisis and in
light of the riots in Seattle,
Washington a few months ago, I wanted
to address with you...

FADE OUT.

THE END