

Secession

By

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OPENING CREDITS

The opening credits are over a montage that shows highlights from the STEINBERG/TAVARES campaign for president.

MONTAGE

JACOB MENAHEM STEINBERG and DAMIEN TAVERES walk on stage in front of a massive crowd as red, white, and blue balloons fall all around them.

Steinberg is a Jewish looking young man. He is about thirty-five with dark hair. Taveres is a heavy set Latino in his late fifties.

REPORTER (OS)

The DNC just nominated the first Jewish candidate for president and the first Latino for vice president. History has...

A woman talks on a political panel show.

WOMAN

I don't think he's really even Jewish. Don't forget, his Facebook page in college said Atheist.

A news reporter stands outside in the midst of a massive protest.

REPORTER

I am standing outside the convention center. There must be thousands of protesters here.

An old southern man is interviewed on television.

MAN

This is a Christian nation. It's in the pledge of allegiance, in the constitution. I will not stand by while...

Steinberg debates his republican opponent.

STEINBERG

You do not get to call me soft on terror. I grew up in New York City. I saw the towers fall. Just because you're Republican doesn't mean you know what terror is. You have no clue.

(CONTINUED)

A man and a woman talk on a political panel show.

MAN

I think Steinberg's unorthodox, in your face, campaign style is actually gonna get him more votes.

WOMAN

I completely disagree. It's unprofessional and rude for a candidate to act like that.

Steinberg waves at a crowd.

REPORTER (OS)

The Steinberg campaign suffered a setback today after he hiccuped during a campaign speech.

STEINBERG

Do you know why our education system is broke? Because all our politicians are old. Seriously, when was the last time your senator saw the inside of a high school... HICCUP! Ummm... Excuse me.

RON ADAM STEWART, a young, blond, and lanky person is interviewed on a talk show.

TALK SHOW HOST

I am sitting here with Ron Stewart, the communications director of Steinberg's campaign. Let me start by asking you this: is America ready for a president named Steinberg?

ADAM

Please, call me Adam. We had a president named Obama, now we have one named Cuomo. Steinberg seems almost like the natural succession.

TALK SHOW HOST

It's like a Republican can't win nationally anymore. A lot of red states are starting to feel detached. How would you...

News reporters are in front of a giant electoral map.

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER

It looks like having Tavares on the ticket is locking the Hispanic vote. Texas and Arizona are too close to call. This could be the first time a Democrat has won those two states since Truman in 1948.

Reporters on a different channel are in front of an electoral map.

REPORTER

We are ready to call Ohio and Florida for Steinberg. The election is his.

END MONTAGE

INT. STEINBERG'S CAMPAIGN HQ - NIGHT

Steinberg is watching the results on a giant television. He is standing next to JOSHUA COHN-SHEIN. Josh is also about thirty-five, with curly brown hair. People can be heard cheering in the background. Steinberg's cell phone rings.

STEINBERG

Thank you. You ran a hell of a campaign, you should be proud.

Steinberg hangs up the phone.

JOSH

Remember in high school, you always made me watch The West Wing?

Steinberg chuckled.

STEINBERG

Yeah, we used to joke it would be us someday. You ready to be my Leo?

Josh smiles.

Adam runs in.

ADAM

You need to get your ass out there right now.

He starts pushing Steinberg out of the room.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

You need to make your speech. Hurry up.

Steinberg laughs and playfully pushes Adam back.

STEINBERG

Alright, alright. I'm going out.

Adam and Josh watch Steinberg exit the room.

STEINBERG (OS)

Hello everybody.

The crowd cheers.

STEINBERG (OS)

I just got off the phone...

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION - DAY

Governor JIM LOYD sits behind his desk. He is a borderline obese man with a small patch of gray hair. His suit jacket is draped on the chair behind him. He wears a white button down and a loose tie. A cross necklace is around his neck. Christian artifacts are placed throughout the office. The South Carolina flag is hung up on the wall behind him.

A deep and solemn expression is on his face.

JENNY, A young woman, about nineteen, walks into the office. She has long brown hair, dark red lipstick and a busty chest. She talks with a thick southern accent.

JENNY

Don and Ron Pep are here to see you.

Two tall gentlemen walk into the room. They are twins with expensive black suits and twirled mustaches. They remove their top hats at the sight of Jenny and each take a hand to lightly kiss. Jenny blushes and exits the room smiling at them.

LOYD

Take a seat gentlemen.

The Pep bothers take their seats in front of Loyd's desk.

LOYD

What can I do ya for?

(CONTINUED)

DON  
We just come by to chat.

LOYD  
Mighty kind.

RON  
You watch the inauguration?

Loyd sighed and shook his head.

LOYD  
Yes... this country lost its way.

DON  
Heard they didn't even use a Bible.

RON  
Nah, they used the constitution.

DON  
Most displeasing.

RON  
Most displeasing indeed.

LOYD  
Our breed is dying. This new generation of Americans are being corrupted by the forces of secular socialism. It's the devil's handiwork, I say it is.

DON  
Yes indeed.

RON  
Most indeed. So well put.

Don and Ron sat silently and looked down, shaking their heads.

DON  
If this new president get his way it will be very hard for Pep Industries to continue to operate in the state.

LOYD  
What are you saying?

RON

Unless we have no constraints over the free market, we may have to ship jobs overseas.

DON

No constraints, like Jesus intended.

LOYD

Ship jobs overseas? But you employ half the state!

RON

It breaks our hearts. But with all this talk of funding education, supporting unions, raising taxes, well it just aint capitalism. It aint Christian.

LOYD

What can I do?

Ron and Don smiled together.

DON

Governor, we want you to start a movement.

RON

You can be our country's savior.

Don pulled out a document.

DON

We had our corporate lawyers draft here a little piece of legislation.

RON

We want you to introduce it to the legislature as soon as you can.

DON

Who knows, it may just pass.

LOYD

Let me take a look.

Don hands Loyd the paper. Loyd glances it over and his eyes begin to gleam.

INT. ALLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

ALLIE MCNAMARA-CASSEWITZ is the senior adviser to President Steinberg. She is in her thirties, tall, skinny, blond, dressed professional.

Allie is in a small office with a desk and unpacked boxes lining the back wall. She stands on top of a chair and hammers a protest poster into the wall.

A PC is the only thing on the desk and Lady Gaga plays from its speakers.

Adam walks into the room. Allie does not notice.

Adam quietly walks over to the laptop and pauses the music. Allie is startled and drops the poster.

ALLIE

Adam! Do you know how long ago I got this poster?

She picks it up.

ADAM

The look on your face! You know how long ago Lady Gaga went out of the style?

ALLIE

At least I don't still listen to Radiohead.

She dusts off the poster.

ALLIE

I got this at a rally I went to with the President while we were in college.

ADAM

Let me see it.

Allie hands him the poster. He glances it over. It reads END THE HARM: From Religion-based Bigotry and Prejudice.

ADAM

You can't put this up.

ALLIE

What? Why not?

Allie tries to grab it but Adam holds it away from her.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Half the country thinks the President is an atheist. You know how it will look if we put posters like this up?

ALLIE

Half the country figured out he was an atheist. He didn't do a very good job fooling them.

ADAM

Yeah because no one listens to me when I tell them not to put stuff like this up all around him.

Allie finally grabs the poster.

ALLIE

It has sentimental value.

ADAM

Hang it up in your apartment.

GREGORY SULLIVAN walks into the office. He is a muscular Irish looking man with scruffy facial hair and scraggly hair. He wears a brown vest over a pinstriped button down and walks with a distinct gate.

GREGORY

There is no sugar free ice cream in the entire mess hall.

ALLIE

You're the only one who eats that stuff.

ADAM

Nice press briefing.

Gregory makes a rock on motion with his arm.

GREGORY

First one!

All of their phones go off. They reach into their pockets to check the text message. Gregory struggles.

GREGORY

Damn it! I still can't figure out how to use this thing.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Dude, all you have to do is...

GREGORY

It's like a fucking rubix cube.

ALLIE

We have to see Josh.

GREGORY

Hold on.

ALLIE

We have to go now!

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The door to the Oval Office opens and Josh quietly steps inside. Steinberg is behind the desk, on a cell phone.

STEINBERG

You know how long it took me to get you guys to let me use my phone? I want to use my laptop... First off I have a mac, I don't get viruses... I want to check Facebook when I please... I can't work without iTunes. I order you to let me use my mac! You know what, I got to go.

Steinberg hangs up the phone and looks at Josh.

STEINBERG

Congress is right, we should de-fund secret service.

Josh steps towards the resolute desk. He looks concerned.

STEINBERG

What is it?

JOSH

Governor Loyd released a secession bill to the South Carolina legislature.

Steinberg laughs.

STEINBERG

Not surprised. That guy's bat-shit insane.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH  
It's gonna pass.

STEINBERG  
Wow, you're serious.

JOSH  
I spoke with senior staff. Allie is researching legal options, Adam is drafting a statement for Greg to tell the press.

Steinberg smiles.

STEINBERG  
Well this didn't take long.

Josh laughs.

JOSH  
They didn't even give us a chance to turn them socialist.

STEINBERG  
Don't worry, there's still time.

Steinberg gets up and pats Josh on the back.

STEINBERG  
I guess we should discuss military options.

JOSH  
They're waiting in the sit room.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Steinberg and Josh step into the situation room. There is a long black table and a wide LCD television screen mounted on the wall.

The table is surrounded with black swivel chairs occupied by men in suits and uniform. They all stand up when Steinberg enters.

STEINBERG  
Be seated.

They all sit down. Steinberg smiles.

(CONTINUED)

STEINBERG

I sit at the head here right?

Secretary of Defense OLIVER HAMILTON, an exceedingly tall person with short brown hair and a slight British accent grimaces.

OLIVER

Yes, Mr. President.

STEINBERG

Right.

He sits down. Josh takes the seat to the right of the head. On the left is Vice President Taveres. Oliver is next to Josh and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs ROY DANIELS is opposite Steinberg. The rest of the chairs are filled with other military personnel.

STEINBERG

Is this something we need to take seriously?

ROY

We have a possible secessionist state.

TAVERES

This is a legal issue, not a military one. We should file an injunction against the law and it will get struck down.

OLIVER

South Carolina is not prepared to recognize federal law.

JOSH

What do you think we should do?

OLIVER

We need to remind them what the 1860s were like.

He turns to Steinberg.

OLIVER

Mr. President, we need to go Sherman on their asses.

JOSH

You're insane. You want to carpet bomb the state?

(CONTINUED)

ROY

We need to consider the military bases in South Carolina. We may have to shut them down.

Josh checks his phone.

JOSH

Loyd just signed the bill. He's making a statement now.

STEINBERG

Turn on the TV.

Roy picks up a remote and turns on the television.

Loyd speaks behind the desk in the Governor's mansion.

LOYD

...the vote was 149 to 21 in favor of secession.

STEINBERG

Wow...

LOYD

This recent election definitively shows that the federal government has lost touch with core American values, values that South Carolina still embodies, values that make this state sacred.

TAVERES

Yeah, you're so patriotic you jump at the first chance to get out!

Oliver flashes Taveres a dirty look.

OLIVER

Shhhhhhh!

STEINBERG

You made the token republican angry.

LOYD

The people of South Carolina did not elect me to compromise our greatness and we cannot remain great if we allow ourselves to be dragged further down by Washington, DC. I stand with the State

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOYD (cont'd)  
Legislature in their decision to  
secede and I know the good people  
of South Carolina will too.

STEINBERG  
Alright shut it off.

Roy shuts off the television.

STEINBERG  
I guess first we should decide if  
we are going to let them secede.  
All in favor say aye.

Everyone looks at Steinberg shocked, except for Josh who  
bursts out laughing.

STEINBERG  
Clearly Cuomo had no sense of  
humor. Lighten up guys.

INT. PRESS ROOM - DAY

Gregory stands at the press podium. Hundreds of reporters  
are crowded in, flashing pictures and asking questions.

GREGORY  
Alright guys shut up.

The room goes quiet.

GREGORY  
The president will address the  
nation at eight tonight.

REPORTER  
Will the president allow South  
Carolina to secede?

GREGORY  
That's eight less electoral votes  
to worry about.

INT. WEST WING HALL - DAY

Adam and Allie are watching the briefing on televisions  
mounted to the wall in a West Wing corridor.

(CONTINUED)

ALLIE

Perhaps we shouldn't of given him  
this job.

ADAM

He's perfect.

Adam looks over at Allie.

ADAM

Has the president told you what  
he's gonna do yet?

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION - DAY

Loyd paces around his office. He yells into a cell phone.

LOYD

Did you see the press briefing? He  
mocked me! The whole White House is  
mocking me. Steinberg probably  
laughed his ass off when he heard.  
That elitist son of a bitch. I'm  
gonna show the bastard I'm serious.  
I'm ordering the state troopers to  
force every federal building in the  
state closed. Yes that includes  
post offices!

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Steinberg is on the phone with Loyd. His head is close to  
the resolute desk. He is visibly frustrated.

Allie, Adam and Gregory are standing before the desk.

Josh is standing behind Steinberg.

STEINBERG

I wasn't mocking you. You don't  
think I'm taking this seriously?  
It's my first full day, you know  
how much crap you're making me deal  
with?

Adam whispers to Allie.

ADAM

Loyd isn't gonna like that.

(CONTINUED)

Allie gives Josh a look. Josh pulls out his phone and types something on the screen. He hands it to Steinberg. The screen says "be nice." Steinberg nods.

STEINBERG

Okay Jim. I understand where you're coming from, but trust me, you do not want to know what will happen if your troops start busting down federal doors.

Steinberg puts his feet on top of the resolute desk.

STEINBERG

Yeah sure, we can negotiate. I'll tell you what I'm gonna do for you, Jim. I want to settle this as peacefully as possible. You tell your troops to hold off and at noon tomorrow you and your entire state delegation will come to the Oval to discuss the terms of secession.

Allie looks shocked and mutters under her breath.

ALLIE

What?

STEINBERG

Haha thanks Jim. Well we don't want a repeat of what happened the last time you guys tried it. See you tomorrow.

Steinberg hangs up the phone.

ALLIE

You're not letting them secede are you?

Steinberg gives her a surprised look.

JOSH

Yeah, what did you just do?

STEINBERG

It's kinda funny actually. Josh, get Oliver and Roy here will ya? Adam I need you to write my address tonight. Make sure you announce the meeting.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Twelve black limos pull up to the White House gate. Loyd and several others in black business suits walk out at the same time. They head towards the building.

INT. ALLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Allie watches the South Carolina delegation through her office window as they walk past. She glances at her END THE HARM poster, propped up against the desk, on the floor.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Steinberg sits behind his desk. He is struggling to write something down. Josh enters.

STEINBERG

I can't hand write for my life.  
Secret service still hasn't given  
me my laptop.

JOSH

I think you're the first dysgraphic  
president.

STEINBERG

I'm just making tons of history.

JOSH

The South Carolina delegation is  
here.

STEINBERG

Oh right, send them in.

Josh steps outside.

JOSH

The president will see you now.

Josh steps back in and the delegation follows. They all squeeze into the oval office. Loyd makes his way to the front. Steinberg stands up, Josh moves behind him.

STEINBERG

Greetings gentlemen.

They all murmur hellos.

(CONTINUED)

STEINBERG

So let me start by confirming this.  
Everyone of you intend for South  
Carolina to secede from the union?

They all murmur yes and nod.

LOYD

Let's cut to the chase. We are  
prepared to buy federal property in  
the state...

STEINBERG

Jim, I want you to hold your  
thought right there.

Josh walked over to the oval door and opened it. Fourteen  
marines enter the room, side arms drawn.

STEINBERG

Cuff em boys.

MARINE

Yes sir!

LOYD

What the hell is going on?

STEINBERG

You're under arrest. You have the  
right to remain silent and what  
not.

The marines start putting hand cuffs on all the delegates.

LOYD

You can't do this.

STEINBERG

You can't secede. It's an act of  
war. What did you think was gonna  
happen?

Oliver enters the room.

STEINBERG

Why hello Oliver.

Oliver smiles.

OLIVER

Hello Mr. President.

STEINBERG

You're just in time to tell our guests whats going on in their state.

He turns to Loyd.

STEINBERG

This is Secretary of Defense Oliver Hamilton. You'd like him. We call him token republican.

OLIVER

Basically while you are all here, we have taken all your cell towers offline. The state has been cut off from the internet and all federal buildings have been reinforced with troops.

LOYD

When did this happen?

OLIVER

Five minutes ago. We also shut the borders.

LOYD

You think this is that easy? The people want independence!

STEINBERG

It really was that easy. Take them away.

The marines push the delegation out of the oval.

LOYD

There are no hearts and minds to win in South Carolina.

Steinberg sits back down as the delegation is forced out of the room.

INT. NEWS SHOW STUDIO - NIGHT

A news anchor looks into that camera. She is on a news desk and a network logo is on the bottom the screen. Behind her are images of massive protests and a burning post office. The protesters carry old confederate and don't tread on my flags.

(CONTINUED)

## NEWS ANCHOR

Massive riots broke out in South Carolina after negotiations between President Steinberg and Governor Loyd went...

## INT. SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT

Steinberg, Roy, Oliver and Josh are in the situation room. They are all standing. Steinberg leans on the table with both arms for support. He looks stressed. Images of protests are on the television screen.

## ROY

We have national guard troops ready. They can be at the protest sites in fifteen minutes.

## OLIVER

The problem is that wont be enough. If we send that small a force the protesters could overwhelm them. Unless you want to commit the army we'll have to ask the Georgia and North Carolina governors to send state troops.

## JOSH

But they are protesters. They have the right...

## OLIVER

Not when you're not part of the country. The law hasn't been struck down yet. South Carolina is foreign soil.

## STEINBERG

Careful Oliver. We cannot say or take any action that would recognize the State as foreign.

## JOSH

The president is right. These are still American citizens exercising their first amendment rights.

## STEINBERG

They have, however, gotten way out of hand and are not exercising peacefully. Send the guards. I'll call the governors now.

(CONTINUED)

ROY  
Yes Mr. President.

OLIVER  
Yes sir.

STEINBERG  
Order them to show *restraint*. As  
much as possible.

ROY  
Yes sir.

INT. PRESS ROOM - DAY

The press room is over crowded with reporters. They talk loudly amongst themselves. Gregory walks in the room, over to the podium. They still talk. Gregory bangs his fist on the podium three times. They all quiet down.

GREGORY  
Okay! This press briefing is not going to be fun. Twenty minutes ago two national guard and a Georgia state trooper were killed by a road side bomb.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Josh walks into the Oval Office. Steinberg sits behind the resolute desk. Josh says a few inaudible words. Steinberg sinks his face into his hands. Josh leaves three sheets of paper on the desk and walks out as Steinberg draws out his phone.

GREGORY (OS)  
We are not releasing their names until the president has phoned the families.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Oliver and Roy stand before the screen. They are transfixed by it. The screen is split up into thirds. It shows a map of South Carolina with different sized red dots all over the state. There is news footage of troops containing protesters and Gregory's Press Briefing.

(CONTINUED)

GREGORY

The Charleston Tea Party Patriots  
have claimed responsibility and are  
being added to the State Department  
Terrorist Watch List.

INT. PRESS ROOM - DAY

Gregory puts his finger to his ear.

GREGORY

Wait... Just received word. A  
national guard Humvee was fired on  
by secessionists.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Oliver and Roy are still in the same position.

GREGORY

I don't have anything for you  
now...

Oliver turns to Roy.

OLIVER

Were gonna need more troops.

Roy nods.

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - DAY

Allie steps into Josh's office. He sits behind his desk and  
looks up at her when she comes in.

JOSH

The president just sent the 2nd  
battalion to South Carolina.

Allie grew solemn.

JOSH

They should crush the resistance no  
problem. We need to focus on moving  
forward. There are two things I  
want you to do.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Steinberg is sitting on the edge of the table, closest to the screen. He is hunched forward, hands clasped, staring at the map of South Carolina.

Roy and Oliver stand on either side of the screen. There is a remote in Roy's hand.

ROY

This the target we want to strike.

Roy presses a button on the remote and the screen changes to a satellite image of a diner.

STEINBERG

It's a diner.

OLIVER

This is the meeting headquarters of the Charleston Tea Party Patriots. They are in there now.

ROY

No doubt coordinating their next attack.

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - DAY

Josh and Allie continue their conversation.

JOSH

The president wants to appoint a provisional government immediately. Do your research. Give me a couple names. We don't have much time.

ALLIE

Can he do that?

JOSH

We haven't had a situation like this for a long time. People will understand.

ALLIE

Fair enough. What else?

JOSH

The president wants to make clear Loyd committed an act of rebellion. That's a military crime. We don't

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOSH (cont'd)  
need it, but we'd like Congress to  
approve military tribunals for Loyd  
and the delegation.

ALLIE  
What?

INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

ROY  
Our fighters are in position. We  
can blow the facility up in ten  
minutes.

Steinberg jumped to his feet.

STEINBERG  
Facility? It's a diner.

ROY  
That's not its function right now.

OLIVER  
This is not a normal conflict. We  
cannot allow terrorists to meet  
uninhibited.

ROY  
They must be rendered useless.

STEINBERG  
Fine do it.

Oliver and Roy pause.

STEINBERG  
Go!

Roy picks up a phone at the end of the table.

ROY  
Operation Medium Rare is a go.

He hangs it up.

ROY  
Thank you Mr. President.

Steinberg turns to Oliver.

(CONTINUED)

STEINBERG

I guess we are going Sherman on their asses.

Steinberg walks out of the room.

INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - DAY

Allie looks visibly upset. She raises her voice.

ALLIE

History never looks favorably on something like that. We can't just...

Josh interrupts her.

JOSH

We also need Congress to suspend habeas corpus in the secessionist region until the provisional government is put in place. The courts are inactive and we can't just go trying every person that fires on our military personnel.

ALLIE

You would have never approved of something like that. If they're doing something wrong they should face a normal trial.

JOSH

You're right. This an extraordinary circumstance. Lincoln had to do it too.

ALLIE

Yeah and historians generally say Lincoln was wrong.

JOSH

It's only until the provisional government is up and running.

ALLIE

You and I both know that's not true.

JOSH

You got some phone calls to make.

Allie storms out.

INT. ALLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Allie slams the door to her office after she enters and plops down on her chair. She leans back and places her hands behind her head. A deep breath later she turns again to the END THE HARM poster perched against the desk on the floor. She draws her cell phone, leans her elbow on the table and starts dialing.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Steinberg and Taveres are sitting in two chairs in the center of the oval office. They are leaned forward and facing each other.

STEINBERG

Adam thinks it's a good idea to send you to South Carolina.

TAVERES

I agree. I could make a few speeches. Show the country we have things under control.

STEINBERG

Exactly. Hopefully you'll be able to introduce the provisional governor.

TAVERES

You have a name yet?

STEINBERG

Allie is gonna give me a few names.

TAVERES

Great. She'll find someone good.

Roy pokes his head through the door. Steinberg looks up.

STEINBERG

Roy, come on in.

ROY

Thank you Mr. President.

Taveres and Steinberg stand up. Steinberg extends a hand and Taveres shakes it.

STEINBERG

Thanks Damien.

(CONTINUED)

TAVERES

You got it.

Taveres lets go and walks out. Roy walks over to Taveres' seat and sits down.

STEINBERG

What can I do you for?

ROY

The second battalion has overcome any violent opposition. They now occupy the state.

STEINBERG

Hells yeah. They put up a good fight.

ROY

They do indeed sir. Tea Party groups continue to stage hit and run attacks. Mostly they fire a few rifles at random soldiers and run into the woods. There have been a few set explosives.

STEINBERG

I want the military to force all gun shops in the state closed.

ROY

Yes Mr. President. Well continue to root the insurgents out.

STEINBERG

Good.

Roy pauses.

STEINBERG

Is there anything else?

ROY

We're gonna need to higher some contractors to provide security for the provisional government.

STEINBERG

Uggg. You know I don't like those guys. Who do you want to higher?

(CONTINUED)

ROY

Pep Industries has a strong support in the region.

STEINBERG

No! No! I am not highering those megalomaniacle union busting sons of bitches.

ROY

They used to employ a lot of people in South Carolina. When President Cuomo completely pulled out of Afghanistan they lost a lot of business. They are on the verge of bankruptcy.

STEINBERG

Maybe if they weren't every republican's main donor they would have more money.

ROY

You higher them to do the security you can save the company and put South Carolinians to work. That's how we win hearts and minds.

Steinberg leans back and strokes his chin.

STEINBERG

I don't like this at all. They profit off war. Remember when they tried to get Governor Tildman to kill the teachers union so the government would have more money to higher them to do crap that didn't need to be done in the first place?

ROY

Maybe if you higher them you'll get some of that money when you run for reelection.

STEINBERG

I better. Fucking pricks. I'll set up a meeting between the Pep brothers and Oliver. At least he can speak their language. Is that it?

Roy gets up. Steinberg follows suit.

(CONTINUED)

ROY  
Yes sir. Thank you Mr. President.

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE - DAY

Ron and Don sit in two chairs in front of Oliver's desk. Oliver is behind the desk. The room is adorned with posters of Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, Bush Senior and Ronald Reagan.

RON  
We are truly honored the president selected us.

DON  
Yeah we were quite surprised.

OLIVER  
Well let me tell you, the president did not make his decision lightly.

Ron and Don chuckle.

RON  
We can imagine.

OLIVER  
I like you guys. I know you'll do a good job.

DON  
You can count on us.

The three stand up and shake hands.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Steinberg, behind his desk, lifts up papers and opens drawers. He has obviously lost something.

Josh walks into the room.

JOSH  
Hey.

Steinberg closes up a draw and looks up at him.

STEINBERG  
I lost my pen. Damn secret service still hasn't given me my laptop.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH  
I don't think they will.

STEINBERG  
I tell you, if I could just have my  
iTunes playing I would have solved  
the crisis by now.

They sit and stare at each other until Steinberg speaks  
again.

STEINBERG  
How do we do it?

JOSH  
What do you mean?

STEINBERG  
How do we make South Carolina a  
normal state again?

JOSH  
South Carolina was never a normal  
anything.

Steinberg laughs.

STEINBERG  
You know what I mean.

Josh looks up and thinks.

JOSH  
You don't. Things will quite down.  
Maybe in a few months we can even  
readmit the state. There will still  
be violence, we'll probably occupy  
it for a while.

Steinberg lets out a sigh.

JOSH  
Reconstruction wasn't over in a  
week. It's still awkward between  
the Northern and Southern states.  
Why do you think this happened?

STEINBERG  
I had to higher the Pep brothers  
today.

JOSH  
You didn't.

STEINBERG  
I did.

JOSH  
Those megalomaniacle union busting  
sons of bitches?

STEINBERG  
That's exactly what I said!

Josh laughs.

JOSH  
I'm not surprised.

STEINBERG  
We've known each other way to long.

Josh glances at his watch.

JOSH  
What day is it?

STEINBERG  
I don't know anymore. I think it's  
Tuesday.

JOSH  
It's 12:00. You've been President  
exactly a week.

STEINBERG  
And the whole country is falling  
apart.

They both sigh.

JOSH  
Hey. It's twelve. Let's get lunch.

STEINBERG  
Yes! Mexican?

JOSH  
There is a great one on 8th and E.  
It's run by Chinese people,  
surprisingly. They do great  
burritos.

STEINBERG  
I love America.

Steinberg gets up. Josh stands too.

STEINBERG  
Call the secret service. We're  
gonna do one of those surprise  
presidential lunch drop ins.

JOSH  
Excellent.

They walk towards the door of the office.

JOSH  
Oh. You should talk to Allie when  
we get back. She's had to call  
every congressmen today.

STEINBERG  
That poor person.

They leave the office.

INT. ALLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Allie types vigorously on her computer. She stops and begins  
to bang on the keyboard.

ALLIE  
Son of a bitch!

Steinberg opens the door and enters the room. Allie is  
startled and stands up.

ALLIE  
Mr. President.

Steinberg smiles.

STEINBERG  
Sit down, Allie.

She sits down. Steinberg sits down in the chair in front of  
her desk.

ALLIE  
I got the blue screen of death.

STEINBERG  
You should switch to mac.

ALLIE  
Never.

STEINBERG  
Remember during finals week when  
you set a computer on fire.

Allie burst out laughing.

ALLIE  
I went threw three computers that  
week. I got your names by the way.

STEINBERG  
Excellent.

Steinberg looks around the room.

STEINBERG  
Your office looks bare. I've always  
known you to be a poster person.

Allie reaches under her desk and picks up the END THE HARM  
poster. She hands it to Steinberg.

ALLIE  
I was gonna hang this up.

Steinberg looks at the poster and laughs.

STEINBERG  
I remember when we got this. I have  
one just like it.

He hands it back to her.

STEINBERG  
Why didn't you hang it up?

ALLIE  
Adam thinks it will make you look  
nonreligious.

STEINBERG  
I'm not religious.

ALLIE  
Exactly.

STEINBERG

Hang it up.

ALLIE

Really? I think he's right.

STEINBERG

That's a presidential order. I'll help you put it up.

Allie hands Steinberg a hammer and a nail. She gets up and holds the poster to the wall while Steinberg hammers it in.

STEINBERG

We're gonna try being who we are for now on.

ALLIE

That's not very presidential.

STEINBERG

Well if people don't like it they can get out.

Allie laughs.

ALLIE

Well they can try.

Steinberg smiles.

STEINBERG

You're right. We won't let them.

Steinberg hits the nail one last time. He and Allie take a step back and admire their work.

The End