

CAL

(CONTINUED)

At the edges of the stage, cast and crew are starting to grow nervous. Just not sure what's happening or what they're supposed to do.

WES (CONT'D)

We were about to do a sketch you've already seen 500 times. Yes, no one's gonna confuse George Bush with George Plimpton, we get it. We're all being lobotomized by the country's most influential industry which has thrown in the towel on any endeavor that does not include the courting of 12-year-old boys.

TOM has been silently joined by SIMON, who we saw give him the low-five backstage. At one point, SIMON will make a gut reaction move to go out and get WES, but TOM will just hold his hand out to stop him.

WES (CONT'D)

And not even the smart 12-year-olds, the stupid ones, the idiots, of which there are plenty thanks in no small part to this network. So change the channel, turn off the TV. Do it right now.

JERRY, the network executive we saw before, bursts into the control room as WES continues.

JERRY

Get him off!

CAL

How?

JERRY

Get the camera off of him!

CAL

And put it on what?

JERRY

Cut the boom mic, then!

CAL

It's his show, I take my instructions from him.

WES

...and there's always been a struggle between art and commerce, but now I'm telling you art is getting its ass kicked, and it's making us mean, and it's making us bitchy, and it's making us cheap punks and that's not who we are.

START SCENE →

SCENE ONE

1/3

(CONTINUED: (2))

JERRY  
(to the DELAY MAN)  
Are you bleeping this out?

DELAY MAN  
He hasn't said anything you're not  
allowed to say.

JERRY  
He's telling people to change the  
channel.

CAL  
I don't think you have to worry about  
anybody changing the channel right now.

JERRY  
Get him off or you don't have a job  
tomorrow.

CAL  
I'm running a live national broadcast,  
can you threaten me later?

JERRY  
I'm the network executive in charge here  
and I'm threatening you now. Get us outa  
this!

WES  
...We're eating worms for money, "Who  
Wants to Screw My Sister", guys are  
getting killed in a war that's got theme  
music and a logo. That remote in your  
hand is a crack pipe...

JERRY  
Cal--

CAL  
I'm waiting for him to say something that  
isn't true.

JERRY  
(turning on the room)  
Who else in here knows how to do this?

CAL  
Don't talk to my staff.

JERRY  
Get him off!

LILLY  
(quietly to CAL)  
You got two kids in school.

(CONTINUED)

2/3

WES: (3)

CAL

What?!

JERRY

She said you got two kids in school whose father's five seconds away from never working again.

WES

...and it's not even *good* pornography. They're just this side of snuff films, and friends, that's what's next 'cause that's all that's left.

LILLY

(gently urging)

Cal.

WES

And the two things that make them scared gutless are the FCC and every psycho-religious cult that gets positively horny at the very mention of a boycott.

Cal almost made up his mind. It's like he's a trained and experienced policeman but this is the first time he's faced live fire.

CAL

All right--I think we're just gonna go to titles. Stand by VTR.

WES

These are the people they're afraid of; this prissy, feckless, off-the-charts greed-filled whorehouse of a network you're watching. This thoroughly unpatriotic--

CAL

Go VTR! Go VTR! Roll titles! Now!

And we

SMASH CUT TO:

OUR MAIN TITLESEND OF TEASER


3/3

Cal

Start →  
SCENE

CAL

We got word the sketch was cut, next thing I knew Wes was up on stage, Standards blew into the room and I waited 53 seconds before I pulled the plug.

HARRIET

There had to be a lot of confusion, it's not like there are rules or procedures for this kind of thing.

CAL

No, there are strict rules and procedures for this kind of thing, I just didn't follow any of them. What's Matt saying?

HARRIET

What do you mean?

CAL

Have you talked to Matt?

HARRIET

Matt and I broke up.

CAL

Oh. I'm sorry. Not my night. Anyway, I've been told to sit tight and wait for word. Rock stars and cocktail waitresses--there are certainly worse places you can be told to wait.

HARRIET

Word on what?

CAL

I faced off with Standards during a live broadcast, Harry, there's gonna be a consequence.

HARRIET

We'll stick together.

CAL

I'm sorry about Matt. I'm a big fan of his and I like him a lot.

HARRIET

I'm a big fan of his and I hate his breathing guts.

CAL

There you go, then.

HARRIET

Yeah.

SCENE TWO

1/2

D: (2)

CAL  
I think the boys are waiting for you at  
your table.

HARRIET gives CAL a pat as she continues through the party and  
runs into RON OSWALD and RICKY BECK, the illegitimate sons we  
saw at the beginning, who were clearly seeking her out.

RON  
Hey.

HARRIET  
Ron. Ricky.

RON  
It's a mob scene out there.

RICKY  
It's a mob.

RON  
Listen kiddo--You alright?

HARRIET  
Yeah.

RON  
You sure?

HARRIET  
Yeah.

RON  
You'd tell me if you weren't, right? You  
know you can talk to me.

RICKY  
Both of us.

RON  
Unbelievable situation. Never seen  
anything like it in 23 years in  
television.

HARRIET  
Where were you when it happened?

RON  
Down on the floor. I know we're next in  
command, but what are we supposed to do,  
shoot him with a dart gun?

HARRIET  
Cal needed some back-up in the control  
room is all.

(CONTINUED)

2/2