

WES

10.

(INT) STAGE - NIGHT

FLOOR MANAGER

We're live in 8, 7, 6, 5, 4--

He silently counts in the last three seconds before pointing at the actor playing Bush--

TOM (AS BUSH)

My fellow Americans. I'm here to speak to you tonight about a very serious subject. My legacy. Legacy is a 480 S.A.T. word which, it turns out, does not mean a woman with nice legs. As in, "Paula Zahn, a gal who's got some serious legacy goin' on." Or, "Angelina Jolie--primo legacy." No, my friends, legacy means--

WES

Stop this.

TOM (AS BUSH)

--the impact one leaves behind.

WES

Stop it, Tom.

There are all kinds of ASSISTANTS and PRODUCERS near WES's chair, all of whom are suddenly confused--

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

(quietly)

We can hear you.

WES has gotten out of his chair and stepped on stage.

TOM (AS BUSH)

(still sticking with the cue cards)

I've asked my Vice President, Dick Cheney, to join me this--

WES

We're gonna stop it, fellas.

TOM

Did we lose the feed?

WES

No. I want you both to clear the stage, I don't want anyone to think you were a part of this.

The AUDIENCE is laughing a little bit, assuming this is part of the show.

(CONTINUED)

SCENE ONE

START →
SCENE

1/5

WES (CONT'D)
 (again)
 Clear the stage.

the cast member playing Cheney step to the side, but
 far away as they're a little concerned.

WES (CONT'D)
 (to the audience)
 This isn't gonna be a very good show
 tonight and I think you should change the
 channel.

WITH:

CONTROL ROOM - SAME TIME

are flipping through their scripts--lost--

LILLY
 What the hell?

ASSISTANT
 When did this get put in?

WES (ON MONITORS)
 You should change the channel right now,
 or better yet turn off the TV.

LILLY
 (into headset)
 Does anybody know what the hell is going
 on?

AUDIENCE laugh--

WES
 No, I know it seems like this is supposed
 to be funny, but tomorrow you're gonna
 find out it wasn't and I'll have been
 fired by then. This isn't supposed--this
 isn't a sketch.

CAL
 This is for real.

WES
 This show used to be cutting edge
 political and social satire but it's
 gotten lobotomized by a candy-ass
 broadcast network hell-bent on doing
 nothing that might challenge their
 audience.

(CONTINUED)

2/5

WES:

At the edges of the stage, cast and crew are starting to grow
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
five backstage. At one point, SIMON will make a gut
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.

3/5

(CONTINUED)

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)

4/5

ED: (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.

Almost made up his mind. It's like he's a trained and experienced policeman but this is the first time he's faced 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 TITLES

END OF TEASER