

01 Merriam, Hatfield, Whitaker, Baxter

SCENE TWO - MERRIAM CAMP - AUGUST 1934

An office with a desk and a low-hanging lamp. GEORGE HATFIELD, LEONE BAXTER, and CLEM WHITAKER seated at the desk. HATFIELD on one side, BAXTER and WHITAKER on the other. FRANK MERRIAM bursts through the door waving a newspaper. He doesn't notice BAXTER and WHITAKER at first...

MERRIAM

Goddamn son of a dumb dirty bitch!
George, did you see these numbers?
How is that socialist prick
pulling in that many voters? It's
a fucking primary! Nobody votes in
fucking primaries!

MERRIAM slams down the paper. Notices BAXTER and WHITAKER.

MERRIAM

Who the hell is this?

HATFIELD

Governor, may I have the honor of
introducing Mr.-

MERRIAM

Who the hell are you?

WHITAKER

Clem Whitaker, sir.

BAXTER

Leone Baxter.

MERRIAM

More information, please.

HATFIELD

They're publicists, Governor
Merriam.

MERRIAM

Of course you are. Publicists!
Everyone's a publicist these days.
You can't throw a fucking cat
without hitting a goddamn
publicist. Pardon my language.

HATFIELD

Until I swooped in, they were
publicists for CLAS.

MERRIAM

CLASS? What CLASS? Like, school?

HATFIELD

No, sir. The California League
Against Sinclairism. Pretty smart
move on my part, huh, Frank?

MERRIAM

Ugh. There are so many damn anti-
whatever leagues and clubs these
days, how the hell am I supposed
to keep up?

HATFIELD

That's part of the reason they're
here.

MERRIAM

You guys look like kids. Are you
guys kids?

BAXTER

No, sir, we-

WHITAKER

Not kids. I'm 31. Baxter
is...younger than that.

MERRIAM

Then you're goddamn kids.

HATFIELD

I wouldn't say that-

MERRIAM

I would, George. I just did, in
fact. What did you do before you
became "publicists"? Did you have
real jobs?

WHITAKER

I was in advertising. Owned a
successful firm.

MERRIAM

And what about you, sweetheart?

BAXTER

I worked in promotions.

MERRIAM

Promotions?

BAXTER

I-

WHITAKER

Baxter promoted Carnivals.

MERRIAM

She's a carnie barker!? That's rich.

BAXTER

I can assure-

MERRIAM

Carnivals, George! You should get George here a job as a bearded lady or something!

HATFIELD

I am not a lady nor I am currently with beard.

MERRIAM

So we've got ads and carnies covered, but this is politics-

WHITAKER

And we are political consultants.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]