

10 Hatfield, Whitaker

HATFIELD

I've just noticed that she seems to be taking the lead on everything. You might want to give this whole "woman in charge" shtick a rest. For your own good.

WHITAKER

...Yes, sir.

HATFIELD

You might be wise to turn Campaigns, Inc. into a solo act sooner rather than later.

WHITAKER

Now, that's certainly out of the-

HATFIELD

It's a hell of a lot more money when you don't have to split it with some broad.

WHITAKER

Mr. Hatfield-

HATFIELD

To be honest, I've never liked her. She listens to Frank a hell of a lot more than she listens to me.

WHITAKER

It is his race and surely you must admit Governor Merriam is a bit more...demanding.

HATFIELD

True. But he's also a jackass.

WHITAKER

...?

HATFIELD

Oh, please. You think I don't know Frank is the human equivalent of a fly-covered wheel barrow of horse dung?

WHITAKER

Sir, I didn't realize-

HATFIELD

Drop the act. He's a disaster. But if he loses this year, I've got no chance of winning the Lieutenant race next year.

WHITAKER

That's true, sir.

HATFIELD

And I'm just worried that her running the show, along with your personal history-

WHITAKER

-My personal history?

HATFIELD

You think I don't know how close you and your brothers are to Upton Sinclair?

WHITAKER

I don't know what you're-

HATFIELD

No need for that. I ran into Sheridan Downey at dinner a couple nights ago. He was there with a man who looked a lot like you. Last name was Whitaker, I believe.

WHITAKER

Sir, I can assure you that my-

HATFIELD

Can you? Can you assure me? Your family must not be too happy with you saying these things about Upton.

WHITAKER

I try not to discuss-

HATFIELD

I can't imagine what would happen if they knew...

WHITAKER

Sir, it is true that Upton is a good friend of my family. But that doesn't mean I'm not doing what you hired me to do.

HATFIELD

Does Miss Baxter know? About you
and your friend?

WHITAKER

No, I don't think she does.

HATFIELD

The way you two flounce about, I'm
surprised you keep any secrets
from each other. It sure would be
a shame if she found out.

WHITAKER

You wouldn't.

HATFIELD

I think you might be
underestimating me.

WHITAKER

No, Mr. Hatfield. You wouldn't.
You won't.

HATFIELD

What makes you say that?

WHITAKER

First, I didn't get where I am
today by underestimating anyone.
Second, YOU hired one of your
opponent's friends to try to get
you into office. Talk about
stupid. YOU wouldn't want that
piece of information getting out.
Imagine what the party would
think...

There's a pause as HATFIELD tries to find a comeback. He
doesn't.

WHITAKER

Is there anything else, sir?

HATFIELD

I don't think so. As long as we're
on the same page. We are on the
same page, right?

WHITAKER

...of course we are. Say, you're a
bit of a snake in eels clothing,
aren't ya?

HATFIELD

Hiss.

WHITAKER

Look, pal. I'm nearly broke. My wife hates me. My kids barely know me. Campaigns, Inc and that "broad" are all I got left. So, be careful...

WHITAKER cracks a nut.

HATFIELD

Is that some kind of threat?

WHITAKER

Of course not. But watch out, Georgie. You might not be the only snake in the grass. I'll see myself out.

HATFIELD

You do that. Keep up the good work...Clem. (He sees the mess of nutshells on MERRIAM'S desk) Aw, nuts!

Lights out as we move to: