

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - DAY

AINSLEY

(Sitting)

Yes, well, Mr. McGarry--

LEO

Leo.

AINSLEY

Yes, sir. I've been thinking about that ever since your office called me on Tuesday, and I have something to say on my own behalf, if you'll permit me a moment to say it, and I understand if you won't, but I would really appreciate it if you did.

LEO

I didn't really follow that, but whatever.

AINSLEY

I think that it is wrong for a man in your position to summon someone to the White House to reprimand them for voicing opposition. I think that that is wrong, and it is inappropriate. It's inappropriate, and I'll tell you what else--

LEO

(nodding slightly)

It's wrong?

AINSLEY

Yes.

LEO

That's fine, except you weren't summoned here to be reprimanded.

AINSLEY

Well, then, if you'll permit me, why was I summoned?

LEO

You have an interesting conversational style, do you know that?

(CONTINUED)

AINSLEY  
It's a nervous condition.

LEO  
I used to have a nervous condition.

AINSLEY  
How did yours manifest itself?

LEO  
I drank a lot of scotch.

AINSLEY  
I get sick when I drink too much.

LEO  
I get drunk when I drink too much.

AINSLEY  
Well, Mr. McGarry--

LEO  
Leo.

AINSLEY  
Yes, sir. I'll ask again: for what  
purpose was I brought here today?

LEO  
So I could offer you a job.

AINSLEY  
(Not waiting for an  
answer)  
I'm asking because I do not  
think that it is fair that  
I be expected to play the  
role of the mouse to the  
White House's cat in the  
game of, well, you know the  
game.

LEO  
Cat and mouse?

AINSLEY  
Yes. And it's not like I'm not, you  
know... the fact that I may not  
look like some of the other  
Republicans who have crossed your  
path does not mean I am any less  
inclined towards...

Ainsley comes to a stop and looks up confused as Leo's offer  
sinks in.

(CONTINUED)

LEO  
Here it comes.

AINSLEY  
Did you say offer me a job?

LEO  
Yes. Associate White House counsel.  
You'd report to the Deputy White  
House Counsel, who reports to the  
White House Counsel, who reports to  
me.

AINSLEY  
I'm sorry...a job in this White  
House?

LEO  
You want a glass of scotch?

AINSLEY  
Yes, please. (Beat) Mr. McGarry, I  
have always been a Republican. My  
father is a Republican. His father  
was State Chairman of the Ohio  
Republican Party.

LEO  
Yes.

AINSLEY  
When I was young, I was a Young  
Republican.

LEO  
(Sitting up)  
Yeah, Ainsley, even if you hadn't  
already told me all of this, you  
know, many, many times, I would  
know it anyway, 'cause I have this  
FBI file.

AINSLEY  
You have my FBI file?

LEO  
Yes.

AINSLEY  
I can't believe that! You have my  
FBI file?

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Yes.

AINSLEY

I have an FBI file?

LEO

Ainsley...

AINSLEY

Mr. McGarry, I loathe almost everything you believe in.

Ainsley stands up.

LEO

Where are you going?

AINSLEY

I'm not going anywhere. I'm standing up, which is how one speaks in opposition in a civilized world.

LEO

Well, you go, girl.

AINSLEY

I find this administration smug and patronizing, and under the impression that those who disagree with them are less than they are, and with colder hearts.

LEO

I don't think that's true.

AINSLEY

How many people on your staff assumed that I was ambitious, mean, and stupid?

LEO

(Firmly)

None. (Beat) C.J. Cregg thinks you kill your pets. You don't do that, do you?

AINSLEY

No, I don't kill my pets. I don't have any pets. I was thinking about getting a pet, but...that doesn't matter. The point is--

(CONTINUED)

LEO  
Ainsley.

AINSLEY  
Yes, sir.

LEO  
Don't you want to work in the White House?

AINSLEY  
Oh, only since I was two.

LEO  
(Shrugging)  
Okay.

AINSLEY  
It has to be this White House?

LEO  
Ainsley...

AINSLEY  
Mr. McGarry.

LEO  
The President likes smart people who disagree with him. He wants to hear from you. The President's asking you to serve. And everything else is crap. (Beat) Think about it overnight. Come back here at six tomorrow and give me your answer.