

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.