

WEST WING SEASON 1, EPISODE 5

CUT TO: EXT. THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL - DAY

CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON, an imposing African American, is walking with Leo near the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

RICHARDSON

Let me guess. Josh got Katzenmoyer and the rest of them back in the boat. You came to me instead of Tillinghouse because you don't wanna use Hoynes.

LEO

We need this one, Mark.

RICHARDSON

I'm voting no, Leo.

LEO

Mark, it's all we could get right now and you know it.

RICHARDSON

You didn't work hard enough.

LEO

We did.

RICHARDSON

What happened to the Tech DC 9 and the Tech 22? What happened to the Striker 12 and the Street Sweeper?

LEO

We had to lose 'em.

RICHARDSON

You never fought for 'em.

LEO

We have to do this inch by inch. You know how this works.

RICHARDSON

No, I know how you guys work.

LEO

That is out of line, Congressman. Guns are number one on my list of priorities and I've never moved the President off of that.

RICHARDSON

Keeping the White House strong is number one on your list of priorities.

LEO

If the White House isn't strong, it doesn't really matter what number two on my

list is. God, Mark. The bodies being wheeled into the emergency room are black. These guns aren't going to Scottsdale, Mark, they're going to Detroit, they're going to Philadelphia. An entire generation of African American men are being eaten alive by drugs and poverty.

RICHARDSON

Well, I'm encouraged to hear the White House has discovered there's a drug problem in this country. I mean your penetrating insight is matched only by the courage displayed in the authorship of this bill.

LEO

Mark, for God sake...

RICHARDSON

Not the three-inch grip, but the two-inch grip. With the forty-gauge barrel and the thirty round clip, not the twenty round clip. With a three-day wait to run a check to see if you're crazy. As if wanting the gun wasn't a pretty good heads up in the first place. No, this is for show. And I think it's an unconscionable waste of the taxpayer's money to have it printed, signed and photocopied, to say nothing of enforced. No, I want the guns, Leo. You write a law that can save some lives. I'll sign it. In the mean time, please don't tell me how to be a leader of black men. You look like an idiot. [walks away leaving Leo looking stunned]