

CHRIS: Good morning, I'm Chris Phillips. As you probably know, this evening W.A.S.H. has exclusive coverage of the debate between the Republican and Democratic presidential and vice-presidential candidates. President Strange and Vice-President Leach are arriving at the White House now. We take you live to Jack Hoffman standing by at the White House steps. Hopefully Jack can get some kind of statements out of them regarding their thoughts about the debate. Lord knows we could use something to perk things up around here!

JACK: Thank you, Chris. This is Jack Hoffman at the White House. The president and vice-president have just left a fund-raiser breakfast, and are expected to arrive at any moment. We hope to get their comments on yesterday's remarks by Democratic vice-presidential candidate Suzanne Fellows. Ms. Fellows statement was extremely critical of the budget bill that the president supports, which is currently before the Senate.

(JACK stops abruptly, holding his ear to hear information from the station.)

(As if to someone on his headset:)

Yes... yes... thank you.

(To front:)

We have just received word that the presidential party has been delayed. We will stand by and bring you our report when they arrive. But for now, we return to Chris Phillips in the W.A.S.H. newsroom.

(Stage lights come up full.)

JACK: Where are they now?! Did they have to make a bathroom stop during the two-mile drive! Not that it really matters. I'm sure all we'll get from them is another "no comment" from Strange; or some insightful "words of wisdom" from Leach.

Sometimes I wonder what's happening to our country. We never seem to have any mud-slinging or name-calling in Washington anymore. Even the members of congress seem to be getting along. Just how is a reporter supposed to make a living?!

CHRIS: This is a breaking news report. W.A.S.H. News has come into possession of a recording with several pieces of incriminating evidence against members of President Strange's administration. Reporter Jack Hoffman is at the Capitol

Ballroom, where members of both parties are currently attending a masquerade ball. Over to you, Jack.

JACK: Thank you, Chris. The recording we have acquired documents an attempt by Margaret Leach, the vice-president's wife, to get evidence of an affair between President Strange and Suzanne Fellows. But, the recording also captured a discussion between Vice-president and Mrs. Leach, with their plans for overthrowing President Strange, so Leach could become president. And, if that's not enough "scandal" for you, there is also some information about Leach's actual birthplace. Now, if we can identify some of those involved behind their masks, we will try to get their responses.