

JACQUI: Thank you, Chris. This is Jacqui DuBose 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.

(JACQUI stops abruptly, holding her ear to hear information from the station.)

(As if to someone on her 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 Janet Jenkins in the W.A.S.H. newsroom.

(Stage lights come up full.)

JACQUI: 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?!

(A MUGGER, played by a stagehand, enters, knocks MARGARET down, and grabs her purse, containing the recorder. The MUGGER grabs the wallet from her purse, throws the purse down, spilling its contents, then runs away. MARGARET is on the ground leaning against the park bench, dazed but not seriously hurt. Her face is exposed.)

MARGARET *(dazed)* : What.. what happened?

JACQUI: Mrs. Vice-President! Now this makes sense! I assume you have a juicy bit of info. Undoubtedly something that you think could help further your witless husband's career!

MARGARET: Please! Help me up.

(JACQUI notices the recorder.)

JACQUI: What's this?

MARGARET: No! You can't take that! And remember, I know all about your little affair.

JACQUI: Yes. But unfortunately for you, my husband has also known about it for some time, and our divorce is in process. So your little blackmail scheme won't work!

Hmm.. I guess some people would call this a "moral dilemma". But, since neither of us seems to have much in the way of morals, I'm just going to think of it as an "opportunity"!

MARGARET: You can't just leave me like this!

JACQUI: Well, I don't see any blood? No bones protruding? I think you'll be okay.

(JACQUI dials cell phone.)

JACQUI (into phone): Hello? Yes, there is a lady injured in the northeast corner of Franklin Square.

MARGARET: You can't do this! You'll be sorry!!

JACQUI (into phone): Yes, yes, that's her yelling. I'm afraid she's in shock, and doesn't know what she's saying. The poor thing! Please send some help right away!

(JACQUI hangs up the phone.)

MARGARET: I'm going to get you for this!!

JACQUI: You'll have to catch me first!