

West Wing

JOSH LYMAN_M_30s+_SERIES REGULAR

THE WEST WING

"WAYS AND MEANS"

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Episode 3.04 -- 'Ways and Means'

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CUT TO: INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam catches up with Josh.

SAM

Josh.

JOSH

Donna's like two, three days from unspooling. It's pretty fun to watch,
but can you loan
me some senior assistants from Communications?

SAM

Yeah. So listen, there's a fire in Yellowstone Park.

JOSH

Well, put it out.

SAM

**Technically, I'm not a professional firefighter, though there was a time I
wanted to be.**

JOSH

When?

SAM

When I was four.

JOSH

When I was four, I wanted to be a ballerina.

SAM

Yeah?

JOSH

I don't like to... talk about it.

SAM

There was a dry lightning strike in a lodgepole pine forest. Fire spread to 500 acres but it's all inside the resource benefit zone.

JOSH

Is it all under control?

SAM

Well, as a matter of fact, last night the park's superintendent - in consultation with Bill Horton and several deputies from the Department of the Interior decided to let it run its course.

JOSH

They're letting it burn?

SAM

It's not necessarily our policy to put these things out.

They walk in JOSH'S BULLPEN AREA.

JOSH

Putting out fires isn't necessarily our policy?

SAM

Fire's good for the environment under certain circumstances. Forests have a natural cycle that requires purging burns to reinvigorate growth.

JOSH

[pours himself coffee] Someone just said that to you, right?

SAM

Yeah.

JOSH

What do we need to do?

SAM

The President needs to talk on the phone with the governor.

JOSH

Why?

SAM

So that the President can say he talked on the phone with the governor.

JOSH

I'll take care of it.

SAM

Ballerina?

JOSH

I'd kind of like that not to get around. [walks off]

SAM

Yeah, fat chance of that. [walks off]