

West Wing

THE WEST WING

**CONGRESSMAN MARK RICHARDSON_M_30s-40s+
CO STAR (RECURRING 3x)**

"WAYS AND MEANS"

TELEPLAY BY: AARON SORKIN

STORY BY: ELI ATTIE & GENE SPERLING

DIRECTED BY: ALEX GRAVES

Episode 3.04 -- 'Ways and Means'

Original Airdate: October 24, 2001, 9:00 EST

START CUT TO INT. THE ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY

Josh and Congressman Mark Richardson are seated at one end of the table. Toby is pacing behind Josh.

RICHARDSON

Josh, you think the Black Caucus votes as a block, and that they only care about the cities.

JOSH

Surely, Congressman, the African-American community can think of better ways to spend twenty-eight billion dollars than a tax break that'll benefit fewer than a thousand African-American families.

RICHARDSON

You're doing it again.

JOSH

Mark...

RICHARDSON

The African-American community doesn't think one way about anything. We're talking about a few members of the Caucus.

JOSH

That was pretty surprising.

RICHARDSON

A few members who feel that African-American homeownership is at it's highest level ever.

That more African-Americans are opening small businesses than ever before. And if they can't pass it on, how will they build up power and clout and self-sufficiency as a community?

JOSH

You think a few black millionaires justifies a multi-billion-dollar boondoggle?

RICHARDSON

Well, as long as there's a Congress, there are going to be multi-billion-dollar boondoggles. We'd just like to share in them a little bit, please.

TOBY

We're bleeding here, Mark.

RICHARDSON

What?

TOBY

We're bleeding here, for God's sake. You can work with us or you can be ignored by a Republican President, but those are your choices.

RICHARDSON

How bad is it?

TOBY

Buckland's coming after us. He's been meeting with Victor Campos. [sits]

RICHARDSON

And while you guys are defending yourselves against special prosecutors and Jack

Buckland, what happens to the people who got you here?

TOBY

Who are you talking to, Mark? We're not gonna forget about failing schools in central cities. [raises his voice and pounds the table with his fist] We're not gonna forget about after-school care, health care for uninsured kids. We're not gonna forget about drug treatment, or urban redevelopment, or community policing!

RICHARDSON

Yeah?

TOBY

You gotta not forget that we're bleeding!

RICHARDSON

The Black Caucus doesn't vote as one mind. I can't promise anything.

JOSH

The veto's an awfully big risk to take... if you can't promise anything.

RICHARDSON

Then the veto's an awfully big risk to take.

END

Toby and Josh look at each other, silently. Toby stands up.