**AUDITION SIDE #2: NED & DAVE**

NED Oh god.

DAVE You’re fine.

NED I’m just all…

DAVE It’s fine.

NED The whole day has been…

DAVE Hasn’t it!?

NED I was hoping I could sneak in here. When no one was looking.

DAVE It’s your office, Ned; you don’t have to sneak in.

NED I just… I really want to get back to work on the budget.

DAVE Oh, good, that’s good. Did you look at the proposal the General Assembly sent over?

NED Oh, yeah, I went through the whole thing. Good golly, Dave, those people are idiots. Look at this, look: They’re completely ignoring the fact that there’s a massive reduction in Federal funding for schools; our state’s gonna get twenty-three million dollars *less* this year. Which is the equivalent of – what?- uh… four hundred sixty full-time teaching salaries, right?

DAVE Uh, sure.

NED You overlook a detail like that, suddenly- eighteen thousand, four hundred of our students don’t have a teacher.

DAVE Is that right?

NED Yeah! This is their education plan. And meanwhile, look… They’re almost doubling – *doubling*- government subsidies for all these dairy farms.

DAVE Uh-huh.

NED If I sign this budget… we’ll end up with a state full of uneducated children, and… really rich cows.

DAVE I don’t think the money goes to the cows.

NED The whole thing is a mess, Dave.

DAVE I see that.

NED I need to work on this.

DAVE I agree.

NED I need to *just* work on this, and not do anything else, like public speaking or appearing on television ever again in my life, okay?

DAVE Ned…

NED You’re supposed to say “yes”, Dave.

DAVE Well, no…

NED As my Chief of Staff, you’re supposed to say ”yes” to whatever I ask.

DAVE I don’t think that’s the job description.

NED Can I make it the job description?

DAVE I want you to work on the budget, Ned. I want you to work on all the important stuff- policy, and legislation, and, you know doing your job, but… do you remember last night, when we realized you might actually become Governor?

NED And I started to cry?

DAVE Right, and we said, okay, if this happens you and I are going to have to spend more time thinking about… politics. Look, I know that campaigning, and giving speeches, and working the crowd…

NED Oh god!

DAVE I know you hate that stuff.

NED It’s not just that I hate it, it’s… I can’t do that, Dave; I’m not built that way.

DAVE But, Ned, you have won elections before.

NED Yeah, but I told you: when I was elected State Treasurer… people only voted for me because I look like a treasurer. And when Larry Clarke ran for Governor, he picked me as his running mate because, you know, Larry is so charismatic, they decided he needed to run with someone really dull just to balance the ticket.

DAVE I don’t think that’s true.

NED No, it is: he told me.

DAVE Larry told you that?

NED Yeah the campaign did a poll. 66 percent of respondents said was Larry was the kind of guy they’d like to have a beer with. 70 percent said they were wondering if I would drive them home from the bar.

DAVE I don’t even know what that means.

NED It means I’m the boring guy who doesn’t drink. But the guy who’s so drunk he can’t drive- they want him to be Governor. This why politics frighten me.