

#2117

"MISTER HARDCASTLE GOES TO WASHINGTON"

by

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A STEPHEN J. CANNELL PRODUCTION

December 5, 1983 (F.R.)

#2117

HARDCASTLE AND MCCORMICK

"MISTER HARDCASTLE GOES TO WASHINGTON"

CAST

JUDGE MILTON C. HARDCASTLE
MARK MCCORMICK

ANCHORMAN
ARTHUR HUNTLEY
MISS JACOBS
PATERSON
KENNETH BOYER
KATE CHILDS
MIKE LUTZ
REPORTER
CARMEN (thug)
MILLER "
JENKINS (reporter)
TRIGG "
HOWARTH "
DOORMAN
TOM PALMER
RITA (prostitute)
CHAUFFEUR
MARGRET WILLIAMS
JERRY FULLER
JUDGE BLACKSTONE
CHARLIE WATTS
MILTON STONE
KEITH SPARKS
DETECTIVE THOMAS
SECRETARY
REPORTER #2

#2117

HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

"MISTER HARDCASTLE GOES TO WASHINGTON"

SETS

EXTERIORS

GULL'S WAY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
HIGH RISE OFFICE BUILDING
AIRPORT (STOCK)
PAY LESS SELF-SERVICE GAS STATION
HIGHWAY
BELMONT HOTEL
VARIOUS STREETS
VARIOUS CAR CHASES
HUNTLEY PRESS INTERNATIONAL
ELEGANT WASHINGTON HOTEL
AMERICAN LEGION HALL
WASHINGTON, D.C. POLICE DEPARTMENT
FRONT OF HOUSE

INTERIORS

DINING ROOM (GULL'S WAY)
PLUSH OFFICE
HARDCASTLE'S DEN
AIRPORT LOBBY
COYOTE
BLACK SEDAN
HARDCASTLE'S HOTEL ROOM
BELMONT HOTEL LOBBY
CREAM COLORED SEDAN
BALL ROOM
HOTEL LOBBY
BELMONT RESTAURANT
PRESS CONFERENCE
HALLWAY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
RECORDS AND I.D. DEPARTMENT
HOUSE
THOMAS' OFFICE
PLUSH OUTER OFFICE
HUNTLEY'S OFFICE

#2117

HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

"MISTER HARDCASTLE GOES TO WASHINGTON"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

1 EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY 1

It is late afternoon on the southern California coast and we can hear an N.D. newscast coming from inside the house.

MCCORMICK'S VOICE (OVER)

Do we always have to have that on during dinner?

2 INT. DINING ROOM - DAY 2

Hardcastle sits at the table and watches the news on a portable T.V. as McCormick turns down the T.V. and stirs something up in a large Chinese Wok with a wooden spoon.

HARDCASTLE

There's something I wanna watch on the news.

MCCORMICK

What? Did your doctor tell 'ya you weren't getting enough stress?

HARDCASTLE

(nods to McCormick)
I'm getting plenty'a stress, McCormick.

McCormick serves up his dish on Hardcastle's plate. (NOTE: N.D. newscast continues in the b.g.)

HARDCASTLE

What the hell is this?

3 INSERT - HARDCASTLE'S PLATE 3

and we can see a concoction of vegetables, tofu, bean sprouts and etc.

4 RESUME SCENE - DAY 4

McCormick gives Hardcastle a dish.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

Macro biotics.

HARDCASTLE

Sounds like an exercise class.

(RE: food)

Look, kid. When it's your turn to cook, I--

McCormick interrupts and points out the foods on Hardcastle's plate.

MCCORMICK

Just hold on a second, o'kay. This here is your tofu... lots'a protein. Comes from the soybean. That? Uncultured wild rice. A dietary stable. And this is sea kelp. Lots'a iodine.

Hardcastle pushes his plate away.

HARDCASTLE

McCormick, iodine is what your mommy puts on your knee after you fall off of your tricycle. You got a cold pork chop back there in the fridge?

MCCORMICK

Would you just try it, Judge?

HARDCASTLE

No.

MCCORMICK

It was good enough for Ghandi.

HARDCASTLE

Ghandi weighed about twenty-six pounds and wore a diaper. Me? I wear pants and eat meat.

Hardcastle turns up the T.V.

HARDCASTLE

Now, if you don't mind, I'd like to get a little stress.

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED - 2

4

McCormick takes a bite and grimaces.

MCCORMICK

You don't know what you're missin', Judge.

HARDCASTLE

Dinner. That's what I'm missing. Now, c'mon. I wanna hear this.

5 ANGLE - TELEVISION SET

5

as an ANCHORMAN gives the news.

ANCHORMAN

More speculation in the Nation's capital as to what jurist will be appointed by the President to fill the vacancy left on the Supreme Court by the honorable Winston Humble. Judge Humble announced his retirement last week after serving sixteen years on the bench of this country's highest court.

6 ANGLE TO INCLUDE - HARDCASTLE, MCCORMICK AND TELEVISION SET

6

Hardcastle listens with a combination of disdain and interest. McCormick struggles through his dinner. (We will dub in the necessary news cast to fill out scene.)

HARDCASTLE

Speculation my ankle. They put out about five names of judges who are your real team player types. Guys who are real middle of the road politically. Y'know, Ivory tower academics.

MCCORMICK

If you're still hungry, we've got some sour grapes in the kitchen.

Hardcastle turns down the T.V.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Nothin' sour about my grapes, McCormick. I respect the Supreme Court as much as the next guy. But, sitting around with a bunch of Harvard grads and yaking about judicial theory is a far cry from the kind'a bench I'm used to sitting on... The process is a little too intellectual for me.

McCORMICK

You wouldn't want to sit on the Supreme Court? I can't believe that. C'mon, Judge. It'd be like startin' for the Lakers. The culmination of a brilliant career.

HARDCASTLE

I didn't say I didn't want it. It's just that those hoo-haas out in D.C. wouldn't pick a guy like me in a million years. I ruled on cheap hoods going up on armed robbery, McCormick; not on whether or not A.T. & T. was violating the anti-trust act of 1935.

McCORMICK

Sour grapes. No doubt about it.

Hardcastle and McCormick exchange looks and McCormick turns up the T.V.

ANCHORMAN

Favorites in the race for the presidential appointment are the honorable Malcolm Sweetwater of Maine...

HARDCASTLE

Sweetwater. Now there's a real beanbag. Guy's got legs long enough to stand on both sides of the issue.

CONTINUED

ANCHORMAN

The honorable Margret Williams
of the New York State appellate
court.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, an' a course you gotta have
your woman in there for the female
vote. Probably a real E.R.A.
stormtrooper type.

ANCHORMAN

Judge Frederick Blackstone.

HARDCASTLE

Blackstone? Hah, the guy couldn't
hand down a decent decision in a
hat basket... Scored a touchdown
once in the Yale game and thinks
he's Thomas Jefferson.

ANCHORMAN

And a rather obscure jurist from
Los Angeles, California. The
honorable Milton C. Hardcastle.

Hardcastle's mouth drops open and instantly the telephone
rings. McCormick snatches it up.

McCORMICK

Hello.

(Beat: to Hardcastle)

You're not that obscure, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

Who is it?

McCormick holds his hand over the receiver.

McCORMICK

The Washington Post.

HARDCASTLE

Sure. Stop fooling around here,
McCormick. Who is it?

McCORMICK

The Washington Post.

CONTINUED

6

CONTINUED - 3

6

Hardcastle snatches up the phone and grunts at McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

(into phone)

Hardcastle here, who's this?

(reacts: then to McCormick)

It's the Washington Post.

(Beat: into phone)

Yes, ... Well, of course I'm, ah,

honored to be mentioned in such, ah,

(shoots McCormick a look)

distinguished judicial company.

Play the moment and:

CUT TO

7

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

7

The most politically active city in the world is bustling as per usual.

8

EXT. HIGH RISE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

8

A gigantic building fashioned out of marble and granite. We get the feeling of old money and power and over the wide brass wood doors we can read:

"HUNTLEY WORLD PRESS INTERNATIONAL"

9

INT. PLUSH OFFICE - DAY

9

A long conference table is filled with the young men and women of Washington clearly on their way up the ladder of power. There is not a public schooler in the bunch: button collars and Brooks Brothers suits. At the head of the table sits ARTHUR HUNTLEY. He is maybe forty-five and loaded with the well polished charm of power.

HUNTLEY

Miss Jacobs? I believe you gave up a weekend of hunting eligible congressmen at the Homestead to put together the portfolio on Judge Blackstone.

CONTINUED

A polite chuckle ripples through the room. MISS JACOBS stands and hands her portfolio up the table toward Huntley. Jacobs is a thirty year old version of Nancy Reagan; attractive but tight.

JACOBS

Blackstone must be considered a favorite at this point Mr. Huntley, due, primarily to the country's growing support of the G.O.P.

Huntley opens up the portfolio and scans the contents.

HUNTLEY

Anderson, have bio do some more research on Blackstone and run a piece in the Sunday section. Family stuff, little league, that sort of thing. If you find anything dirty, send it up to me. If he's a contender let's keep him clean for now.

(Beat)

Paterson?

PATERSON is a young good looking student council president type. He stands and nods to a stack of reasearch in front of him.

PATERSON

Our work on Judge Williams is incomplete sir. But, so far it seems other than being a woman her legal record and posture is hardly outstanding.

Again, a ripple of polite laughter fills the room. This must be their idea of a joke. Huntley smiles.

HUNTLEY

Keep me updated...and run a feature on her in the Wednesday edition if you can find an angle...

(nods to his troops)

Thank you.

And, as if a bell rang, all of our young lions file out. Huntley turns to the one remaining youg lion. This man's name is KENNETH BOYER and like his clothes his features

CONTINUED

CONTINUED - 2

are well cut and contemporary. There is a moment of tense silence as Huntley goes through his stack of portfolios.

BOYER

Don't worry about it Mister Huntley. Hardcastle is nothing more than a long shot at this point. They always forward a couple of guys like him for congressional approval...it appeals to the grass root voters.

Huntley stands and looks out the window.

HUNTLEY

I've never stopped worrying about Hardcastle... Christ, one of the reasons I moved out of California twenty years ago was because of him.

BOYER

You had a different name. You were working a different kind of action. He probably won't even remember you. Anyway, you got the power now.

Huntley turns toward Boyer.

HUNTLEY

And I'm going to use it to make sure the honorable Judge Hardcastle doesn't make it to the Supreme Court.

(Beat)

When he gets to D.C. have someone pay him a visit.

CUT TO

10

EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

10

A KABC NEWS TRUCK wheels up through the gates and parks next to a LIMO from the AIRPORT LIMO SERVICE. KATE CHILDS climbs out of the news truck with another man named MIKE LUTZ. Lutz carries an action cam and a list of notes, tape recorder and etc. Childs is a blonde thirty year old newscaster with capped teeth and a nice butt. As they set up outside the house:

CONTINUED

CHILDS

What's this guy's name again?
Harderman, Hastleman, something
like that?

LUTZ

Hardcastle. Milton Hardcastle.

Childs puts on her microphone.

CHILDS

Do we have an angle here or am
I just suppose to wing it?

In the b.g. another news truck wheels in and starts to set up.

LUTZ

(checks his notes)

Our Washington desk doesn't have
anything on him. But what I got
here says Hardcastle's your basic
law and order buff...put in about
thirty years on the county bench.

Lutz hands Childs his notes.

LUTZ

Lives with an ex-con named
McCormick. Mark McCormick.
The guy used to be a car thief.

CHILDS

Maybe we can use that.

CUT TO

Hardcastle peers out the window and grimaces at all the press
that seems to be swarming into Gull's Way. He wears a nice
blue blazer, white shirt, tie, charcoal slacks and his L.A.P.D.
baseball cap. In the b.g. we can see some old canvas luggage
that is stuffed with at least a month's worth of clothes. A
beat, then McCormick enters elegantly dressed in a three piece
suit, club tie and brown cordovans. He carries a suitcase.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

C'mon, Judge... Washington
D.C.'s waiting. They sent a
limo for us and everything.

Hardcastle is edgy. He looks at McCormick and tries to
straighten his tie. He can't do it and McCormick helps
him out.

MCCORMICK

Relax, Judge. Once those
Washington boys get a load of
you, you got it in the bag...
Probably gonna put you on the
cover of Time... Then, Supreme
Court posters, tie tacks, baseball
cards. You're gonna clean up in the
after-market.

Hardcastle doesn't respond.

MCCORMICK

What's the matter?

HARDCASTLE

Ah, Mark...what do you plan on
doing out there in D.C.?

MCCORMICK

Oh, I don't know, Judge.
(winks)

There are more single secretary
types per square inch in D.C.
than any other city in the world.
I'll manage somehow. And when
you're getting grilled by the
congressional committee on how
you stand on the miranda decision,
I'll be fielding some of the
color for you with the media
people. You're gonna need a
press secretary y'know.

McCormick picks up Hardcastle's bags and makes for the door.
We can see that Hardcastle has something to say.

HARDCASTLE

Mark... Look, I don't have to tell
you how much you mean to me... But
I don't want you to come to
Washington.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

What?

HARDCASTLE

Now, don't get me wrong... But, sitting on the Supreme Court bench has been a dream of mine since I started law school... and --

MCCORMICK

You don't want me to mess it up for you, right Judge?

HARDCASTLE

I didn't say that, did I? It's just that who's gonna take care of Gull's Way if we're both out in D.C.

Hardcastle pulls out a list of things he has written down on paper.

HARDCASTLE

Now, I wrote down most of the stuff here. A guy's coming to clean the rugs on Tuesdays and there's some cleaning ready to be picked up at the laundry.

McCormick sees through this. He takes the list and reads.

MCCORMICK

Oh. I got it... I'm good enough to cut your lawn, but when it comes to goin' cheek to cheek with the Washington elite, you think I'll be outclassed, right?

HARDCASTLE

No...It's just that we have chores here.

MCCORMICK

Hey, Judge. I don't have to go, y'know. I mean, I don't even want to... I just thought that you could use a friend out there. But, hey, excuse me, o'okay. Made a mistake. Sorry.

There is a long beat as these two exchange looks. This is real hard on both of them.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

O'kay, o'kay. Now look, I don't want you to hate me for this, but they're gonna be throwing a lot of light on me in D.C.... Those congressional boys look at you real close and, and--

MCCORMICK

And you don't want them looking too close at a judge who hangs out with ex-cons and plays basketball.

HARDCASTLE

I just want to have the best chance at making it to the Supreme Court, Mark. And I want you to try and understand that.

MCCORMICK

I understand it, Judge... But remember something, you get to where you're goin' because of who you are, not because'a where you come from...

They exchange looks and Hardcastle reaches out his hand.

HARDCASTLE

Will'ya wish me luck?

McCormick hesitates for a beat and then shakes Hardcastle's hand.

MCCORMICK

Whatta you think? Now you knock'em dead out there and don't do anything stupid.

HARDCASTLE

Never do.

Hardcastle picks up his bags and starts to walk out the door.

MCCORMICK

Judge.

Hardcastle turns and McCormick reaches up and takes off his L.A.P.D. baseball cap. Hardcastle smiles and leaves. McCormick stands alone in the den and shoots his cuffs.

MCCORMICK

All dressed up for a party and nowhere to go.

Play the moment and then:

12

EXT. GULL'S WAY - NIGHT

12

Hardcastle comes out of the front door and the chauffeur grabs his bags. The press swarms in and we can see McCormick in the b.g. as he appears in the doorway, watching.

CHILDS

Judge Hastleman, would you comment on your relationship with a convicted felon named Mark McCormick?

HARDCASTLE

The name's Hardcastle, miss... and some of my closest friends are convicted felons.

13

CLOSER ON MCCORMICK

13

As he shakes his head at Hardcastle's response.

REPORTER

Your Honor, if appointed to the Supreme Court, will your posture with the press be as closed and uninformative as the current administration's?

HARDCASTLE

No comment.

Again McCormick shakes his head.

CHILDS

Do you support the move in renewing the E.R.A. incentive on the grounds that its failure to gain passage is unconstitutional?

HARDCASTLE

I'm all for equal rights, but when it comes to putting a pretty little thing in the cockpit of an Airforce Bomber, I'd rather see 'em sitting at a desk... That's not to say that women aren't equal to men, it's just that I don't think they should be making bombing raids, um, ah, from where I sit, anyway.

CONTINUED

13

CONTINUED

13

REPORTER

And where is that?

HARDCASTLE

On the seat of my pants... Now,
if you don't mind, I have a
plane to catch.

Hardcastle climbs into the limo and it wheels off.

14

CLOSE ON MCCORMICK

14

As he stands in the doorway and watches Hardcastle's limo
roll down the driveway and out of sight. The press climb
into their respective vehicles and swarms out after him.

MCCORMICK

(sotto voice)

Hardcase, they're gonna eat you
alive out there.

He loosens his tie and his expression tells us that he is
thinking hard. Then, McCormick smiles.

SMASH CUT TO:

15

INT. HARDCASTLE'S DEN - DAY

15

McCormick is on the telephone. His suitcoat is off and
sleeves are rolled up: jotting down figures on a yellow
legal pad.

MCCORMICK

That's right, Washington, D.C.
One way... uh, huh... How about
without the in-flight movie...?
Uh, huh.... how about if I pack
my own lunch...? Two sixty-nine...
No, ah, thanks alot, o'kay.

He hangs up and pulls out about eighty six dollars and
change. As he counts it out:

MCCORMICK

Five tanks at thirty miles to the
gallon... and five dollars for
coffee and candy bars.

CONTINUED

- 15 CONTINUED 15
McCormick snatches up his suitcase and bolts out of the den.
- 16 SERIES OF SHOTS - LOS ANGELES AIRPORT - DAY 16
As Hardcastle's limo pulls into the departure area.
- 17 INTERCUT - THE COYOTE 17
As it blows down the driveway at Gull's Way and roars off.
- 18 INTERCUT - JET AIRLINER - DAY 18
As it lifts off eastbound on its way to D.C.
- 19 INTERCUT - THE COYOTE 19
Blasting past an INTERSTATE ROADSIDE SIGN that reads:
ROUTE 70 - ALL POINTS EAST
Play the moment and then
- 20 EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - SERIES OF ESTABLISHING SHOTS (STOCK) - DAY 20
From the Washington Monument to the White House and all points
in between.
- 21 EXT. AIRPORT - (STOCK) - DAY 21
Hardcastle's jetliner touches down.
- 22 INTERCUT - EXT. PAY LESS SELF SERVICE GAS STATION - DAY 22
This place is out in the middle of nowhere somewhere on
Interstate 70. McCormick is filling up the Coyote and
chugging a cup of cold black coffee. He checks his watch,
tops off the tanks, jumps into the Coyote and squeals off,
driving past a roadsign that reads:

"WELCOME TO COLORADO"

CUT TO:

- 23 INT. AIRPORT LOBBY - DAY 23
 Hardcastle puts down his luggage and starts feeding quarters into a pay telephone.
- HARDCASTLE
 Yes operator, I'd like you to try that number for me again please.
- 24 INTERCUT - HARDCASTLE'S DEN - DAY 24
 And the phone on his desk rings and rings.
- 25 RESUME - HARDCASTLE 25
 As he hangs up and turns to a stranger that was waiting for the phone.
- HARDCASTLE
 The kid's probably out in the back yard cleaning the pool or something.
- Off the stranger's shrug, we
- SMASH CUT TO:
- 26 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT 26
 As the Coyote streaks through the night and past a HIGHWAY PATROL CAR that sits in the shadows between a dip in the road.
- 27 INT. COYOTE - NIGHT 27
 McCormick spots the highway patrol car in his rear view mirror and hits the gas.
- 28 RESUME - EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT 28
 Play the chase as the Coyote leaves the MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROLMAN in the dust and flies over the state line.
- CUT TO:
- 29 EXT. THE BELMONT HOTEL - WASHINGTON D.C. - NIGHT 29
 As Hardcastle climbs out of a LIMO and enters the hotel.

30

ANGLE - KENNETH BOYER

30

As he watches Hardcastle enter the hotel and then walks across the street to a BLACK SEDAN that is parked by the curb. He raps on the tinted window and after a beat it rolls down.

31

NEW ANGLE TO INCLUDE - INT. BLACK SEDAN - NIGHT

31

Sitting at the wheel is a low level thug named CARMEN and next to him is another world class loser who goes by the name of MILLER. Boyer bends down to the window and takes a cigarette out of Carmen's pocket and lights it.

BOYER

That guy who just got out of the limo was Hardcastle...

Carmen nods and Boyer hands him an envelope. Carmen opens it and counts out about ten one hundred dollar bills:

BOYER

You get the other half when I read about Hardcastle in the newspaper... Just another victim of D.C.'s high crime problem, okay.

CARMEN

Anything he's got on him we can keep?

BOYER

Hey, it's just another mugging.

Carmen nods and Boyer flicks his cigarette and walks off.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

- 32 EXT WASHINGTON D.C. - ESTABLISHING SHOTS - DAY 32
It is early morning and the Nation's capital is coming to life.
- 33 ANGLE - THE COYOTE 33
As it whips through the light early morning traffic and past a sign that reads: "WELCOME TO WASHINGTON D.C. - THE NATION'S CAPITAL".
- 34 INT. THE COYOTE - DAY 34
And we can see that McCormick is just about asleep at the wheel. He needs a shave and looks clearly the worse for wear after his nonstop trip across the country. He checks his watch and looks to the gas gauge.
- 35 INSERT - GAS GAUGE 35
As the needle sits right on empty.
- 36 RESUME - McCORMICK 36
As he taps the gas gauge.
McCORMICK
C'mon, girl. Just a couple of more miles.
- 37 EXT. BELMONT HOTEL - WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY 37
Cabs wheel in and out of the front loop and we can see the black sedan still sitting across the street.
- 38 INT. HARDCASTLE'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY 38

CONTINUED

Hardcastle is dressed in sweats and on the phone. We can hear it continuing to ring unanswered on the other end of the line. He picks up the Washington Post and flips it open to the front page. The headlines read:

"Speculation On Supreme Court Nod Continues"

And there are accompanying pictures of each of the candidates: all of whom look very dignified except for Hardcastle. His picture shows him sporting a baseball cap and dribbling a basketball. Hardcastle reads the caption under his picture.

HARDCASTLE

L.A.'s Lone Ranger dribbles in as dark horse in Supreme Court bid... Terrific.

(re: unanswered phone)

C'mon, McCormick, where the hell are you?

Hardcastle hangs up the phone and starts to exit the room.

CUT TO

EXT. BELMONT HOTEL - DAY

The Coyote wheels into the front loop and pulls up behind a line of cabs.

INT. COYOTE - DAY

McCormick looks at the hotel.

MCCORMICK

He's gonna kill me.

CUT TO

INT. BELMONT HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Hardcastle is spotted walking through the lobby by a passel of reporters as they move in. There are about three of them and they are named TRIGG, JENKINS, and HOWARTH.

JENKINS

Judge Hardcastle, do you think your reputation as a hardline law and order jurist will have a negative impact on your Supreme Court bid?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Hardcastle is walking fast through the lobby in an effort to shake these guys off but it's of no use. A couple more reporters begin to crowd around.

HARDCASTLE

I thought law and order was what the Supreme Court is all about, son.

TRIGG

Your honor, could you elaborate on that legal posture, please.

HARDCASTLE

Sure. You got your legal and your illegal. Me? I'm for legal.

HOWARTH

That's it?

HARDCASTLE

You can break it down to right and wrong if you want to, but it's basically just the good, the bad and the guilty.

Howarth looks off toward the elevators and we can see JUDGE MARGRET WILLIAMS stepping off the elevator. She is an attractive fifty and smartly dressed in the good taste political campaigner. Howarth cuts off Hardcastle's mid-sentence.

HOWARTH

There's Judge Williams.

and in a flash all the reporters leave Hardcastle standing alone in the middle of the lobby and surround Judge Williams: ad libbing "care to make a comment?", "is E.R.A. an issue and etc." Play Hardcastle's look here and:

HARDCASTLE

(softly: to reporters)
I'm in two ten if you guys want another quote.

He walks off and:

CUT TO

42

EXT. BELMONT HOTEL - DAY

42

Hardcastle comes out and sucks in the fresh morning air; stretching a bit and getting ready for his jog. Next to him stands the DOORMAN. Hardcastle smiles at him: hoping to be recognized.

HARDCASTLE
Milton Hardcastle.
(extends hand)
The judge.

DOORMAN
Artie Weber.
(shakes hand)
The doorman.

43

ANGLE - INT. BLACK SEDAN - DAY

43

Carmen nudges Miller awake and nods to Hardcastle who can be seen jogging off down the street.

CARMEN
That's him, we're on.

Carmen starts up the sedan and Miller pushes a clip into the revolver he just pulled out of his torn, olive drab army jacket. As they wheel off:

44

INTERCUT - INT. COYOTE - DAY

44

As McCormick sees Hardcastle and starts up the Coyote.

MCCORMICK
He's gonna kill me, no doubt
about it.

McCormick wheels off and starts to follow Hardcastle.

45

EXT. STREET - DAY

45

As Hardcastle jogs down the street and out of sight from the hotel. The black sedan pulls up along side of him and Carmen toots the horn as Miller rolls down the window. Hardcastle stops. In the b.g. we can see the Coyote driving up.

MILLER
Can you get us to Grant Street,
pal?

HARDCASTLE
(shrugs)
I'm not from around here. Sorry.

CONTINUED

45

CONTINUED

45

And in a flash Miller leaps out of the sedan and puts his revolver in Hardcastle's gut.

MILLER

Inside, nice and easy or I do it right here.

46

ANGLE - McCORMICK P.O.V.

16

from inside the Coyote and he can see Hardcastle being pushed into the sedan.

McCORMICK

What the hell's going on here?

He grabs first gear and wheels after the sedan.

47

INT. BLACK SEDAN - DAY

47

Miller is in the back seat with Hardcastle and bracing his hand gun.

MILLER

C'mon, empty your pockets and I'll take the watch too.

HARDCASTLE

I'll give you all I got. Just go easy with the heater, o'kay.

Carmen is at the wheel and as he makes a turn onto a side street he keeps checking his rear view mirror.

48

REAR VIEW MIRROR - P.O.V.

48

and the Coyote closes in.

49

RESUME - SCENE

49

CARMEN

Some stiff in a sports car's on our bumper.

Both Hardcastle and Carmen turn and look out the back window. Hardcastle responds.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Nah, it couldn't be.

MILLER

(as he pushes the gun
into Hardcastle's gut)

You know'em?

HARDCASTLE

I'm from outta town, pal. I
don't know anyone.

CARMEN

Hang on, I'll lose him.

Carmen hits the gas and the sedan squeals down the street.

The Coyote closes in on the black sedan and they roar down a side street side by side. Miller hangs out the window and fires a couple of shots at McCormick and the Coyote swings wide and bashes through a bunch of garbage cans that sit by the curb. The Coyote wheels off from the curb and cuts in front of the sedan. The sedan swerves and flattens a mail box: letters scatter everywhere and the chase continues. We play this for as much action as will hold and then the Coyote ramps up off of a highway divider and catches about forty feet of air. It comes down and its rear wheels clip the front hood of the black sedan causing it to careen out of control. The Coyote brodie to a stop and the black sedan piles into the rear of a parked van. Miller leaps out of the rear of the sedan and McCormick stops him with a flying tackle and a hard right hand to the jaw. Miller's gun clatters to the pavement and McCormick grabs it up just as Carmen wrestles himself away from Hardcastle. McCormick points the gun at Carmen.

MCCORMICK

Freeze.

Carmen does and McCormick tosses the revolver to Hardcastle and hauls Miller up off the ground.

MCCORMICK

I don't know, Hardcase. I let you
out of my sight for a day and a half
and already you're in some kind of
trouble.

CONTINUED

50

CONTINUED

50

Hardcastle takes this all in and rubs his chin: looking at McCormick. Play this as the cops wheel in and

CUT TO:

51

EXT. HUNTLEY PRESS INTERNATIONAL - DAY

51

Boyer pulls up in a cream colored sedan and hustles through the front doors.

52

CLOSE ON - TELEVISION SET - DAY

52

A news anchorman gives the noon report. His name is TOM PALMER. After a couple of beats PULL BACK TO REVEAL Arthur Huntley at his desk.

PALMER

Earlier today Supreme Court candidate Judge Milton C. Hardcastle single handedly arrested two suspected robbers who attempted to mug him while jogging outside his Washington D.C. hotel. The Los Angeles jurist whose legal stance is clearly one of hardline law and order was quoted after the incident as saying that, "his job is to enforce the law whether in the courtroom or in the streets." Known as Hardcase Hardcastle his thirty years on the bench, this morning's heroic events could only help his Supreme Court bid, which up until now, has been considered a long shot at best.

And we can see that Arthur Huntley is consumed with anger. He flicks off the T.V. with a remote and after a beat Boyer enters Huntley's lush office.

HUNTLEY

Pretty sloppy work, Boyer. I tell you to take Hardcastle out of the race and you make him look like a Robin Hood who's cleaning up the streets of D.C.

CONTINUED

BOYER

What can I say Mister Huntley.
I messed up. It won't happen
again.

HUNTLEY

What are we gonna do? Send a
couple of more goons at him? We
do that, he's not going to think
it's a mugging next time. He'll
get suspicious.

(Beat)

That muscle you hired, will
they talk?

BOYER

They know we've got friends in the
joint, so they'll be happy to take
a short ride on attempted robbery.

Huntley gets up and walks toward his window.

HUNTLEY

I spent a lot of years building
up Huntley Press, Boyer. I got
a circulation of ten million in
five different cities and a
political power base that lets
me call my shots. If Hardcastle
gets on the Supreme Court
and settles in D.C., all that's
over... It's a small town,
and when he finds me out, and
Hardcastle will, believe me,
it'll be over.

BOYER

We'll we make another move on him,
but this time, he doesn't get away
alive... I'll bring in some out
of town talent and personally see
to it that it's done right this
time.

Huntley waves Boyer off with his hand.

CONTINUED

HUNTLEY

I can't risk anymore of your outta town talent.

(beat)

No. The way we keep this creep off the bench is easy...I'm a newspaper man. I print the news that's fit to print, right? Well, we're gonna use my newspapers to paint this guy like a scumball...After I'm through with Hardcastle, his own mother wouldn't vote him into the Kawannis Club.

CUT TO

53 EXT. BELMONT HOTEL - NIGHT

53

Again, cabs and news trucks drive in and out of the front loop.

HARDCASTLE'S VOICE (OVER)

You're darned lucky I'm not gonna pull your string on account'a you leavin' California without my approval.

54 INT. HARDCASTLE'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

54

McCormick is dressed in his suit, clean shaven and well rested now. Hardcastle's VOICE continues to come out from the bathroom - OFF CAMERA. The T.V. set is on: newscast.

HARDCASTLE'S VOICE

Driving across country like a madman. Breakin' speed limits.

MCCORMICK

Bustin' bad guys, makin' you look like the Lone Ranger. Face it, Judge. You owe me.

McCormick reacts to the T.V. set and shakes his head as he turns it up. A PICTURE OF HARDCASTLE slides behind the anchor-man.

MCCORMICK

(sotto voice)

Not again.

(calls out)

C'mon, Kimosabe, you're on.

CONTINUED

Hardcastle comes out of the bathroom in his black slacks and buttoning up a shirt and knotting a bow tie. He turns up the T.V.

ANCHORMAN

In the legend of Judge Roy Bean, Judge Hardcastle single-handedly arrested two armed assailants this morning in the nation's Capitol.

McCormick turns off the T.V.

McCORMICK

What's with this single-handed stuff, Hardcastle? I'm the guy who pulled your head outta the fire.

Hardcastle turns the T.V. back on.

McCORMICK

The name's McCormick, want me to spell it for you?

HARDCASTLE

What can I tell you, kid? You're not news. Me? I'm news. Single-handedly out in the streets beefing up the city's security.

(re: T.V.)

Do you think I should maybe get another publicity picture for the press? That one kinda makes me look like I'm a little, too, oh, I don't know...

McCORMICK

A little too much like a donkey? C'mon, Judge. That's the way you look. Learn to live with it. I have.

Hardcastle grunts and picks up his tuxedo jacket. He hands it to McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

Give me a hand with this...I don't want to get it wrinkled.

CONTINUED

McCormick helps Hardcastle into his tuxedo.

McCORMICK

Is this the guy who wore the same pair of sneakers for seven years and eats with a spoon?

(beat)

Fame's an ugly drug, Judge.

Hardcastle checks himself in the mirror and nods approvingly.

HARDCASTLE

Now look here, kiddo. Number one, I don't give a darn about fame. But, if the National news want to run a piece on me 'cause I, --

McCORMICK

We.

HARDCASTLE

...helped out the local cops, fine. It won't go to my head. Two, the Supreme Court could use a guy like me who's willing to throw a punch, ... And three...whatta think, should I release another publicity picture?

McCormick just shakes his head.

McCORMICK

Can we get going to this hot shot bash, you've got yourself all glitized up for?

Hardcastle takes one more look in the mirror.

HARDCASTLE

All right, now remember what I told you.

McCORMICK

Yeah, yeah, no drinking out of the finger bowl, keep my hands off the senator's wives. And make sure you don't open your mouth to change feet when you're talkin' to the press.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Right... They figure the President will make his entrance just after cocktails, so keep your ears open for the introduction. I wanna see if I can get a word with him.

MCCORMICK

The President?

HARDCASTLE

Mister President to you, kiddo. Let's go.

As they leave

CUT TO:

EXT. BEJ.MONT HOTEL - NIGHT

We can see Boyer's cream colored sedan parked off from the front loop of the hotel. Hardcastle and McCormick exit and McCormick tries to whistle up a taxi.

INT. CREAM COLORED SEDAN - NIGHT

Boyer is at the wheel and he nods to Hardcastle and McCormick: turning to the backseat. And sitting there are two really painted up ladies of the night. One is blonde and dressed in a low cut dress that shows off about forty pounds of breast. Her name is RITA. Next to her is an exotic looking babe with olive skin dressed in an ultra tight jumpsuit. Both wear earrings, bracelets and knee high boots.. It should be clear that these girls go for a couple of hundred dollars a throw. Sitting between them is a little photographer named IAN.

BOYER

That's Hardcastle... Now, I can get you girls past the reception line...and Ian, you got your press pass, right?

Ian nods.

BOYER

Good.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Rita follows Hardcastle and McCormick as they walk down the front loop. McCormick continues to try and wave down a cab. She turns to the other hooker whose name is CHEETAH.

RITA

You can have the guy with the curly hair, Cheetah.
(smiles)

I'll take the judge. Always wanted to make nice with a judge.

BOYER

I don't care if you flip a coin.
Do you know what to do?

RITA

You ain't hirin' amateur talent here, Boyer. You want it like what we did to that senator last year, huh?

BOYER

That's right. Just don't mess it up.

RITA

Relax, we'll ruin his life.

EXT. BELMONT HOTEL - NIGHT

McCormick has had no luck in flagging down a cab but it appears that Hardcastle is not worried about it.

McCORMICK

If we don't get a taxi, we're gonna be late, Judge. Why don't we just take the Coyote?

HARDCASTLE

Oh, y'know, we'd just have to find a parking space and all that.

McCORMICK

So?

HARDCASTLE

Just get us a cab, will ya?

A beat goes by as Hardcastle looks around at the traffic: obviously waiting for something. McCormick has no luck with the cabs, ... and then, a LIMO STRETCH PULLS UP and a chauffeur gets out and holds open the rear door.

CHAUFFUER

Judge Hardcastle? Your car, sir.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

57

McCormick just about pukes and shoots Hardcastle a look.

HARDCASTLE

If you want to play for the Yankees,
McCormick, you gotta wear the uniform.

MCCORMICK

(re: limo)

Think this thing's got enough
headroom for you, Hardcastle?

HARDCASTLE

Get in.

McCormick does and Hardcastle turns to the DOORMAN: handing
him a couple of twenties.

HARDCASTLE

Give that to the cab drivers for
ignoring my friend here.

The Doorman nods and Hardcastle gets into the limo. As it drives
off we can see Boyer's cream colored sedan pull out and follow.

CUT TO

58

EXT. ELEGANT WASHINGTON HOTEL - NIGHT

58

Clearly some kind of heavy duty party going on here. Limos
and press cars are everywhere.

59

INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

59

And now we can really see where our tax dollars go. There is a
food spread on the table that could feed most of the third world
and at least four bars are working the corners of the ballroom.
Senators and congressmen are everywhere: chatting with their
wives and winking at the pages.

60

ANGLE - JUDGE MARGRET WILLIAMS

60

As she holds court with about five photographers and newspaper
people. Next to her is MALCOLM SWEETWATER and FREDERICK
BLACKSTONE. Sweetwater is a black man of about sixty five
with an aristocratic look and greying hair. Blackstone is
your basic uptight blue blood who sits hard on the right
wing of justic. Williams is in mid-lecture:

WILLIAMS

Of course that is not to say that
a jurist without at least appellate
(MORE)

CONTINUED

WILLIAMS (Cont'd)
 court level experience wouldn't
 be able to handle Supreme Court
 decisions. He or she may, but I
 would encourage the congress to
 look long and hard at their legal
 track record.

JERRY FULLER of the New York Times interjects.

FULLER
 Are you aware that Judge
 Hardcastle has only Los
 Angeles County Court exp-
 erience?

WILLIAMS
 (a little disdainful)
 I think Judge Hardcastle's record
 speaks for itself.

Another reporter named JENKINS speaks up.

JENKINS
 Judge Blackstone, so you concur
 with your colleague?

BLACKSTONE
 (like W.F. Buckley)
 I think we are all impressed with
 Judge Hardcastle's courage in
 light of this morning's events...
 But, one must consider the
 incredible responsibility that
 a Supreme Court justice must bare.
 The novelty of being a crime
 fighting hero, or being a woman
 for that matter, must not influence
 congressional approval.

Williams gives Blackstone a hard look.

As they stand off to one side of the press conference
 and take all of this in.

HARDCASTLE

Boy, don't you love those guys?
If I knew it was going to be this
catty, I would've brought some
kitty litter.

MCCORMICK

As your press secretary let me
advise you to keep your hat on,
o'kay.

HARDCASTLE

I'll keep it on, McCormick, but
I'm not going to let my fellow
jurists sell me to the press as
one'a the rough riders.

Hardcastle steps off toward the group and McCormick follows.

Hardcastle nods to Williams.

HARDCASTLE

Hi Maggie.

WILLIAMS

Milt.

JENKINS

Do you two know each other?

HARDCASTLE

Oh sure. Judge Williams over-
turned one of mine decisions a
couple of years back.

WILLIAMS

Two.

MCCORMICK

Years?

WILLIAMS

Decisions. Judge Hardcastle's
legal theories were intact, but
under scrutiny of the higher court,
they didn't hold up.

FULLER

Would either of you care to elaborate on the difference in your view of the law?

Hardcastle looks like he's going to explode here, but he doesn't and McCormick shoots him a strange look.

HARDCASTLE

(uncomfortably mellow)

Well, one can only be impressed with my colleagues esteemed judicial record and I'm honored to have been a part of it.

McCormick shoots Hardcastle another look: this is clearly not the guy he knows.

FULLER

So, you're saying that Judge Williams' was right in overturning your decisions?

Hardcastle doesn't really know how to handle this.

HARDCASTLE

Well, I, ah, I guess that, one could say, well, like, y'know.

FULLER

No. I don't know. That's why I asked.

McCormick doesn't want to see Hardcastle squirm. He interjects:

MCCORMICK

Being a servant of the people and the law in general, Judge Hardcastle could hardly argue with a system of justice that allows for checks and balances brought to bare by intelligent debate among seasoned jurists like himself and the honorable Judge Williams.

McCormick scores a big point with the press and as they scribble down his quote. Hardcastle looks at him; almost in shock.

HARDCASTLE

Exactly.

(nods to press)

Now, if you'll excuse us.

CONTINUED

62

CONTINUED - 2

62

Hardcastle and McCormick walk off and:

63

NEW ANGLE - BUFFET TABLE

63

Hardcastle and McCormick munch on the food.

HARDCASTLE

Where does that Battleship get off on climbing onto my shoulders and waving their illustrious legal flag in my face? Decisions get over-ruled all the time.

MCCORMICK

So, why didn't you say that?

HARDCASTLE

I did.

MCCORMICK

No. I did. You were too busy dancing around the issue and trying not offend anybody by giving the perfect answer.

HARDCASTLE

I was just trying to be honest.

MCCORMICK

No. You were being political. And that isn't you, Hardcase. Never was.

HARDCASTLE

Look, they throw these things so we can make an impression on the press. I just want to make a good one.

MCCORMICK

They throw these things to try and stir up some controversy. And they serve cocktails so you guys won't hit each other over the head with chairs trying to get the spotlight.

HARDCASTLE

I don't want the spotlight, McCormick. I just want a fair chance at the Supreme Court nod.

CONTINUED

McCORMICK

You gotta good chance, Judge. But, don't be so quick to trade your pick-up truck in on a limo... You're the everyman, Milt. That's why you're here.

HARDCASTLE

(serious)

What I am, is an ex-cop who went to night school to become a lawyer and got lucky to become a judge. Maybe I wasted a lotta time. Maybe I should've been kissing babies instead of busting bad guys. These judges all got head start on me.

McCORMICK

Judge, when you go to the biggest party of your life, you dance with who brought you...don't change, okay?

Hardcastle thinks for a beat and then:

HARDCASTLE

Y'know, you're not right much, McCormick. But, this time you're damned right.

Hardcastle removes his bow tie and unsnaps his collar.

HARDCASTLE

(re: bow tie)

Silly little things, aren't they?

He drops it in the dip as they walk off. McCormick fishes it out and puts it in his pocket.

A line of senators and congressmen is forming to meet the arrival of the President of the United States. Of course Williams, Blackstone, and Sweetwater are front and center.

VOICE (OVER)

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States will be arriving any minute.

Stuffed into a crowded corner at the end of the line. We can see Hardcastle craning his neck around and trying to get a good look at the front of the receiving line. He's real nervous.

HARDCASTLE

Now, it's real important for me to make a good impression. I mean, c'mon, it's the President of the United States.

McCORMICK

Just be yourself, Judge.

The crowd size increases and Hardcastle and McCormick are pushed back.

HARDCASTLE

What does he like to talk about? Foreign policy? Should I talk a little foreign policy here? Maybe the salt talks? The Jarvis Amendment?

McCORMICK

How about football? Talk the playoffs.

HARDCASTLE

You don't talk to the President of the United States about football, McCormick. He's an important man.

McCORMICK

He's a Redskins fan.

HARDCASTLE

Oh, jeeze. How do I look...? Wish I would'a kept my tie.

McCORMICK

Relax. You wouldn't even be here if he didn't think you were a legal heavyweight.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, okay...but, you can't say enough about first impressions. Personal contact. Y'know, my best work is one on one,...chatting away with that old Hardcastle charm.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

On that:

VOICE (OVER)

Ladies and gentlemen, the President
of the United States.

And suddenly the crowd pushes forward and all kinds of secret service men protect a MAN we cannot see and escort him down the receiving line. We hear ad-libsof various people saying hello...Hardcastle leaps up to see over the crowd. He can't. Then, a HAND shoots out from the crowd: Hardcastle shakes it respectively for just a beat and stares at it as he shakes.

HARDCASTLE

(to hand)

Redskins got a heck of a team,
don't they, Mister President, sir?

The crowd moves on and McCormick stands alone.

MCCORMICK

(re: crowd)

He looks taller on television,
doesn't he?

Off that, we:

CUT TO

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

The party's over and we can see that Hardcastle clearly feels like he blew it. McCormick tries to cheer him up.

HARDCASTLE

I didn't exactly light this place
on fire tonight, did I...Nobody
even knew I was there.

MCCORMICK

You did fine.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, I'll bet old Maggie
Williams and Judge Blackstone,
right now, are sitting in the
green room having coffee and
cakes with our first couple.
Me? I can't even find my bow tie.

CONTINUED

66

CONTINUED

66

McCormick takes the bow tie out of his pocket and hands it to Hardcastle.

MCCORMICK

It's got cheese dip on it.

67

ANGLE - RITA AND CHEETAH

67

As they get a nod from Ian who holds a camera from across the lobby. Rita holds a brown paper bag.

68

ANGLE - INCLUDE HARDCASTLE AND MCCORMICK

68

As Rita and Cheetah walk by. Rita drops her brown paper bag and Hardcastle picks it up. Suddenly both Rita and Cheetah are all over Hardcastle and kissing him on the cheeks, etc. Rita rips off the brown paper bag and we can see Hardcastle holding a bottle of booze. Ian comes in and flicks off a roll of film.

69

FREEZE FRAME - ON HARDCASTLE AND SCENE

69

And we can see Hardcastle in the midst of something that looks like it is about to turn into an orgy: Bottle of booze in his hand, hookers, unbuttoned shirt and lipstick smeared face.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO

70

CLOSE ON - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

70

As a stack of newspapers hit the counter of a news stand and we can see the picture of Hardcastle and the Hookers on the front page. The caption reads:

JUDGE HARDCASTLE WRESTLES WITH MORE THAN JUST CRIME
Supreme Court Scandal Gains Momentum

Hold for a beat and:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

71

EXT. BELMONT HOTEL - DAY

71

Boyer is waiting on the curb as a long, black, mob-style limo stretch pulls up and a man named CHARLIE WATTS gets out. He is about forty, with the thick necked look of a hood: well dressed in a silk shirt and a Bermuda tan.

WATTS

(not friendly)

You're gonna owe me for this, Boyer. You and your whole newspaper.

BOYER

We don't owe you spit, Watts. Huntley press ran the campaign to get you out of the can, we can run another to put you back in. He's sitting in the restaurant, third table on the left, ... and make it look like you're an old buddy.

Watts gives Boyer a hard look and walks off toward the hotel.

72

INT. BELMONT RESTAURANT - DAY

72

Hardcastle and McCormick are having breakfast, but we can see that our judge hardly has an appetite and his food is left untouched as he reads the headlines of the HUNTLEY PRESS. McCormick eats like a horse.

HARDCASTLE

(reading)

Senator Henderson has asked for a complete investigation of Judge Hardcastle's personal activities as a result of the judge's associations with the capital's criminal element. Sighting that the integrity of the Supreme Court is at stake, Henderson stated that "We can't give a guy like Hardcastle a breathilizer test everytime he sits on the bench."

CONTINUED

72

CONTINUED

72

McCORMICK

You're being smeared, Hardcastle.

HARDCASTLE

No kidding.

Hardcastle tosses the paper on the table and McCormick picks it up.

73

INSERT - ANOTHER HEADLINE

73

And in this picture we can see both McCormick and Hardcastle with the girls all over them.

74

RESUME - SCENE

74

McCormick nods to the photo.

McCORMICK

Mine's kinda cute, Judge. But yours was a dog.

HARDCASTLE

Why is someone doing this to me?

McCORMICK

Because maybe after all that heat you got yesterday about bagging those two muggers, you started looking like a good bet... And someone doesn't want you sitting on the Supreme Court.

HARDCASTLE

Who?

McCORMICK

Those other judges you're up against for the nod? One of them might be willing to play some dirty tricks to cut you out of the race.

Hardcastle shakes his head.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Not in a million years. Every one of them is a first rate legal mind with an impeccable judicial record. They don't have to play dirty and they wouldn't. They're judges. Good judges.

McCormick looks back to the newspaper.

MCCORMICK

Well, at least they spelled my name right this time.

(reads)

"Henderson went on to say that he is asking for a congressional investigation of Hardcastle's close relationship with a convicted felon named Mark McCormick who lives on Hardcastle's luxurious oceanside estate and is employed in an unspecified capacity."

HARDCASTLE

Well, I can forget about the Supreme Court, kiddo. These guys are eating me alive.

MCCORMICK

It's only one newspaper, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, the Huntley Press International. Maybe the most powerful newspaper publisher in the country...

MCCORMICK

We have a press conference this morning Judge. Tell'em you're being set up and smeared in the press. We had nothing to do with those two skunks last night... Just tell them the truth.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, right. And then I look like a liar. Look at the picture, kid. They got us cold.

(Beat)

Well, whoever it is, I wonder what kind of dirt they're gonna throw at me next.

On that, Charlie Watts sits down at the table.

WATTS

Judge Hardcastle? Mine name's Watts. And, I thought in seeing how you might make it to the big bench, me and you should talk.

MCCORMICK

If you're from the press, Judge Hardcastle will be releasing a statement at this morning's conference.

Hardcastle tugs on McCormick's sleeve to stop.

WATTS

I ain't from the press, pal. It's just that my family does a lotta action in this end of the country, and I like to stay friendly with the big boys on the bench.

HARDCASTLE

Charlie Watts? Your old man named Anthony? Got a brother named Jilly?

Watts nods.

HARDCASTLE

Who let a dirt bag like you outta joint? Last I heard you were doing ten to twenty for racketeering and drug trafficking.

WATTS

I promised to be a good boy and stay outta the family business. They let me walk after five.

HARDCASTLE

(leans close)

Hey, Watts... I'm in no mood for this, so why don't you get out of here before I punch your heart out.

CONTINUED

74

CONTINUED - 3

74

Watts smiles and as he leans over to Hardcastle and gives him a warm slap on the back, we can hear the sound of a motor-drive camera and the FRAME FREEZES in yet another scandalous photo of Hardcastle: mugging with a hood.

CUT TO:

75

EXT. AMERICAN LEGION HALL - DAY

75

Press trucks are parked everywhere.

VOICE (OVER)

Judge Hardcastle, Milton Stone,
Atlantic City Journal.

76

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY

76

Hardcastle, Williams, Sweetwater and Blackstone sit at a long table that faces a room full of press people scribbling on yellow pads and speaking into tape recorders. MILTON STONE is standing and McCormick can be seen standing in the b.g.

STONE

Are you saying that you are a victim of slander and that your bid for the Supreme Court is being intentionally sabotaged?

HARDCASTLE

That's exactly what I'm saying. But, why don't we try and stick to the issues here, okay. Ask me about where I stand on the Harmson incentive, the Barkus Bill. The law.

A man named KEITH SPARKS stands.

SPARKS

Judge Hardcastle, Keith Sparks, Nebraska Daily... If we are talking about the law, what of your relationship with a convicted felon named Mark McCormick?

McCormick just shakes his head in the b.g.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

(angers)

I'm getting a little sick of this, Bucko. McCormick was placed into the legal custody in an experimental rehabilitative program... Now, why don't you ask some of my colleagues a question or two and get outta my personal life.

BOYER'S VOICE (OVER)

But that is the question here, Judge Hardcastle.

Boyer stands up.

BOYER

Huntley Press, Kenneth Boyer. And maybe his honor would like to comment on his meeting this morning with alleged Crime Boss Charlie Watts.

The place erupts and we

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Hardcastle storms down the hallway with McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

That's it! That's about all I'm gonna take. Someone is putting it to me and I'm gonna find out who and why.

MCCORMICK

How?

HARDCASTLE

Look, kiddo. When a man dying of thirst, he goes to his favorite bar. Me? I'm a cop's judge. They're my people, not these high tower guys in grey suits... We're on a case here starting now.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

We don't have much, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

So, we build it one piece at a time. Let's throw some scenarios out here. Let's say that my "meeting" with Charlie Watts wasn't an accident, just like those two peacocks last night, and maybe even those muggers weren't just a co-incident, maybe they were part of a plan that backfired.

Hardcastle puts a couple of dimes in a pay phone.

MCCORMICK

Who are you calling?

HARDCASTLE

Who else do you call when you're in trouble..? The cops.

MCCORMICK

(smiles)

Welcome home, Hardcase.

CUT TO:

of the Huntley Press International. We can see Hardcastle and crime boss Charlie Watts in what looks like the smiling embrace of two old friends. The caption reads:

"Hardcastle Shores Up Family Ties?"

PULL BACK TO REVEAL more headlines of newspapers with pictures of Hardcastle and the hookers and etc. And we can see Arthur Huntley smiling behind his large oak desk. A beat, then Kenneth Boyer enters the office.

HUNTLEY

Nice work, Kenny. It looks like our man Hardcase isn't gonna make it to the Supreme Court after all.

CONTINUED

BOYER

I told you I'd get it done.

Huntley steps out from behind his desk.

HUNTLEY

There is something funny about power, Kenny. You get it in your blood, and it becomes the only thing that turns your motor. Not money, not women,... just power.

Boyer nods.

BOYER

Hardcastle will be out of town in a couple of days... Once he's back in California he can't hurt us. I'm gonna run a couple of follow ups and then kill the coverage.

HUNTLEY

Who's gonna get the nod?

BOYER

Could be anyone of them... But at least they can't pick you out of a line-up, huh?
(smiles)

HUNTLEY

Thanks, Kenny.

Boyer exits the office and Huntley opens a drawer of his desk and takes out a telephone: dialing a number. A beat, then:

HUNTLEY

Yeah, Kenny Boyer just left, do it clean.

Play the moment and

CUT TO:

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Squad cars are parked out in front along side the Coyote.

VOICE (OVER)

Right after I got your call Judge,
I put records and I.D. all over
those guys.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

DETECTIVE THOMAS sits at his desk in front of McCormick and
Hardcastle.

HARDCASTLE

Well, Detective, it's just a
hunch. But someone is definitely
trying to cook me and I started
to wonder if that was just plan
"B". Maybe those two goons were
suppose to kill me instead of it
just being a routine mugging.

Thomas hands Hardcastle a file.

HARDCASTLE

I really appreciate it.

THOMAS

Hey, Judge, you kidding? When
I was in school I read every
thesis you wrote on law and order.
You're the best, and anything I
can do, let me know.

(beat)

And maybe it isn't just a hunch
after all.

HARDCASTLE

What do you mean?

THOMAS

Johnny Carmen was the wheel man
that tried to take you down
yesterday morning. He ain't
talking, but we ran his whole
package... Most of it was low
level... But two years ago he
cashed a ten thousand dollar check

(MORE)

CONTINUED

THOMAS (cont'd)
for what we thought could've been
a hit on an assemblyman. We had
no P.C. so we passed, but the
check was from a guy named
Kenneth Boyer.

MCCORMICK
Kenneth Boyer? Hey, Judge, wasn't
he one of the reporters that was
grilling you at the press con-
ference this morning?

Hardcastle thinks for a beat.

THOMAS
Boyer is a top guy at Huntley
Press International. I don't
know why he'd be working the
political desk.

HARDCASTLE
That's a good question, would
you guys mind if I asked him?

THOMAS
No. I'll get you his address.

And as Thomas punches his telephone, we:

CUT TO

EXT. STREET - DAY

The Coyote streaks by CAMERA and toward a well heeled
Washington suburb.

HARDCASTLE'S VOICE (OVER)
Up there on the right, that big
job with the fountain.

The Coyote pulls into a driveway of a really hot looking
house with well groomed lawns and circular drive. They
get out and walk toward the door. Hardcastle rings the
bell.

82 CLOSER ANGLE - FRONT DOOR

82

Hardcastle rings the door bell again. No one answers.
McCormick tries the lock.

HARDCASTLE

That's breaking and entering,
kid.

MCCORMICK

Not if it's open, Judge.

McCormick pushes the door open and we can see that the house
is in shambles. Tables turned over, lamps smashed and etc.

MCCORMICK

Looks like someone got here first.

They enter and

83 INTERCUT - SIDE DOOR OF HOUSE

83

As a HIT MAN named BARROWS slips out of the door and into the
garage.

CUT TO:

84 INT. HOUSE - DAY

84

As Hardcastle and McCormick lean over Kenneth Boyer who
is now dead as a boot. Hardcastle drops Boyer's wrist.

HARDCASTLE

He hasn't been dead long.

And on that, we hear a car start up and screech out of the
garage and down the driveway. Hardcastle and McCormick
react and bolt out of the house.

85 EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

85

Barrows is at the wheel of Boyer's cream colored sedan and
as he blows down the driveway Hardcastle and McCormick sprint
to the Coyote and dodge the bullets that Barrows is pumping
out from an automatic pistol. They dive into the Coyote
and it squeals off in pursuit of the cream colored sedan.

EXT. CAR CHASE - DIRECTOR'S SEQUENCE - DAY

Outstanding action as we play this chase through the streets of a D.C. suburb. Bashing through bushes and over garbage cans the Coyote closes in and dodges gunfire. We will ramp some cars here and after some spectacular driving by both parties, the Coyote brodies sideways and forces the sedan onto a highway divider that launches in about a hundred feet of unencumbered flight. As it skids to a stop on its roof, Hardcastle and McCormick exit the Coyote and run to the wreck. They pull Barrows out of the car and Hardcastle pushes him up against the sedan. He whips out his Miranda card.

HARDCASTLE

My name is Milton Hardcastle and I'm making a citizen's arrest on suspicion of murder... You have the right to remain silent, you have the right to an attorney, if you can't afford an attorney

McCormick smiles at Hardcastle and we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

87 EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY 87
The Coyote is parked out in front next to the squad cars.

88 INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY 88
Just as Hardcastle pushes a handcuffed Barrows through a pair of doors and into the area where Detective Thomas has his desk. McCormick follows and Thomas stands.

HARDCASTLE

Book this guy on suspicion of murder one. And send homicide out to Boyer's place along with the county coroner... Kenneth Boyer's been murdered.

THOMAS

Kelly, Davidson, paper this punk.

Two desk sergeants lead off Barrows and Hardcastle and McCormick sit down in front of Thomas' desk.

THOMAS

Looks like someone is really set on keeping this thing a secret, Judge. Too bad, maybe Boyer could'a been squeezed enough to tell us who.

McCORMICK

Well, let's look at what we've got. Someone makes an attempt on Hardcastle the first morning he's here. It fails so they move in with a smear campaign; a couple of working girls and a hood... Boyer grills Hardcastle in front of the whole press corps and his Supreme Court shot goes in the toilet. Then, Boyer eats it himself and case closed.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

THOMAS

He's pretty good, Judge. Where'd you find him?

Hardcastle smiles at McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

In jail. I've been training him ever since. Look, there's got to be a string hanging here somewhere. You mind if I use--

MCCORMICK

We.

HARDCASTLE

(shoots look)

We, use your facility here? Maybe we can spitball a couple of ideas on who and what's behind this mess.

THOMAS

No problem, you got the run of the place. Lab, records and I.D. I'll put a man on our crime computer in case you want to run something national.

HARDCASTLE

Thanks. And that suspect who must've wasted Boyer, get me a peek at his package if you can, o'kay.

Thomas nods and we

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RECORDS AND I.D. DEPARTMENT - DAY

Hardcastle is pouring over Barrows files and we can see coffee cups and empty bags of chips everywhere. It is real clear that these guys have been at it for hours. McCormick is pouring over all the negative press stories in various newspapers.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

McCORMICK

Here's another one, Judge.
"Although information is speculative at this time, the I.R.S. is considering freezing Judge Hardcastle's bank accounts until his lavish means of support can be justified."

HARDCASTLE

You love reading that junk about me, don't you?

McCORMICK

C'mon, Judge. You can't believe everything you read in the papers. How's it going?

HARDCASTLE

(Re: Barrow's file)

This guy's record isn't gonna get us anywhere. He's a pro. No way he's gonna talk about who hired him.

McCormick picks up the papers and tosses them on the table in front of Hardcastle.

McCORMICK

Y'know, Judge, the newspaper articles that were the hardest on you, I mean the one that wouldn't give you any break on how they wrote the slant of your alleged scandals,

(thumps papers)

are all part of the same publishing company. The Atlantic Journal, The Nebraska Daily, The Courier Express... All owned by Huntley Press International. Boyer was a Honcho with Huntley Press.

HARDCASTLE

Y'know, you are pretty good, McCormick.

McCORMICK

Next time maybe you won't try to leave me home, huh.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED - 2

Hardcastle snatches up a phone.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, I want you to punch up everything you can on that computer of yours about Huntley Press International... Stockholders, department heads, cross check all the names and run an aliases search for a.k.a.'s on the national network.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON - COMPUTER

And we see a number of names printing up on the screen:

STEPHEN FRANKS - VICE CHAIRMAN HUNTLEY PRESS - NO ALIASES
WILLARD MARMON - INVESTMENT COUNCELOR - HUNTLEY PRESS - NO ALIASES
GERALD PHELPS - V.P. PERSONNEL - HUNTLEY PRESS - NO ALIASES

And then "Arthur Huntley" prints up on the screen and for a beat the computer seems to stutter: searching for the data, then:

ARTHUR HUNTLEY - PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER HUNTLEY PRESS
ALIASES - DAVID FARBER - NEVADA, 1967 ARMED ROBBERY
FRED DAVIS - KANSAS, 1961 ASSAULT
LONI VANATTA - CALIFORNIA -- SEE DATE FILE 4567

and the computer goes crazy as it lists out this rap sheet:

DATA FILE 4567

ARMED ASSAULT AND ROBBERY - CONVICTION - 2 YEARS -
SAN QUINTEN 1953
ATTEMPTED MURDER - CONVICTION - 7 YEARS SERVED -
PAROLED 1960
MURDER - FIRST DEGREE - CONVICTION - OVERTURNED
SUSPECT LEFT STATE 1960

PULL BACK TO INCLUDE SCENE - INT. THOMAS' OFFICE - DAY

And Hardcastle is stunned as he sees who Arthur Huntley really is: he turns to Thomas and McCormick.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

This makes a whole lot more sense now, doesn't it... I sent Huntley up for murder over twenty years ago, and he figured if I bumped into him out here in D.C., it'd shake his tree a little.

MCCORMICK

All right,
(to Thomas)
Go pick him up.

THOMAS

On what? What we have is circumstantial. We don't have an open warrant and unless we can prove that he hired out the hit on Boyer, we got nothing.

HARDCASTLE

Well, maybe I can talk him into it. Let's go McCormick.

As they walk out we

CUT TO:

EXT. HUNTLEY PRESS INTERNATIONAL - DAY

The Coyote squeals up in front and parks. Hardcastle and McCormick get out and enter the building.

INT. PLUSH OUTER OFFICE - DAY

Hardcastle and McCormick enter and we can see Arthur Huntley's name on a brass plate on an oak door that leads into his office. A SECRETARY sits at a desk.

SECRETARY

Can I help you gentlemen?

HARDCASTLE

Yes, I'd like to see Arthur Huntley please.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SECRETARY

I'm afraid Mister Huntley is very busy... Do you have an appointment?

McCORMICK

No. Just tell'em Loni Vanatta has come back to pay him a visit.

The secretary hesitates a bit and then Hardcastle punches her intercom button and nods to her.

INT. HUNTLEY'S OFFICE - DAY

He sits at his desk and we can hear the secretary's voice over the intercom.

SECRETARY'S VOICE (OVER)

A Mister Loni Vanatta is here to see you sir...

Huntley's face goes ashen just as Hardcastle and McCormick barge through the door from the outer office.

HARDCASTLE

Hi Loni... Remember me? Hardcase Hardcastle?

HUNTLEY

What are you doing in here.

The secretary enters

SECRETARY

I tried to stop them sir.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, we wanted to stop by and say hello to you from a guy named Boyer. Kenneth Boyer. He used to work here before he was murdered.

In a flash Huntley pulls out a gun and grabs his secretary using her as a shield.

HUNTLEY

You make a move Hardcastle and I blow this lady away.

CONTINUED.

94 CONTINUED

94

Huntley backs out of the room and opens fire. Hardcastle and McCormick hit the floor and Huntley blows out of the office and pushes away the secretary.

95 ANGLE - HALLWAY - DAY

95

As Huntley runs down it, turning and firing at McCormick and Hardcastle who are in hot pursuit. Huntley makes it to the elevators and the doors close.

McCORMICK

C'mon, the stairs!

They head for the stairs and we

CUT TO:

96 EXT. HUNTLEY PRESS INTERNATIONAL - DAY

96

Huntley blows out from the underground parking in a grey, luxury sedan and after a beat McCormick and Hardcastle scramble out to the building and dive into the Coyote. It roars out after the grey sedan and the chase is on.

97 EXT. CAR CHASE - DAY - DIRECTOR'S SEQUENCE - DAY

97

And the grey sedan blows through the streets of the city with the Coyote not on its tail. We play the chase here and launch a couple of cars, sliding through intersections and scattering traffic. Then, the grey sedan smacks into a garbage dumpster and flips up on its side: skidding down the street and crashing into a store front. Hardcastle and McCormick run to it and Hardcastle yanks Huntley out of the grey sedan.

HARDCASTLE

You're outta the newspaper business,
Loni...and going back to jail where
you belong.

CUT TO:

98 CLOSE ON - A NEWSPAPER

98

As it hits the newstands. We can read the headlines and

CONTINUED

#2117

59.

98

CONTINUED

98

a big picture of HARDCASTLE smiling into the lens. This is the first picture of Hardcastle that is complimentary, under it, the caption reads:

SUPREME COURT FAVORITE FIGHTS CRIME WITH COURAGE

Hold on the headlines and fade out.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG

FADE IN:

99

EXT. BELMONT HOTEL - DAY

99

The press is everywhere and swarming around the front of the building. The DOORMAN (Artie Weber) is trying to keep them at bay.

REPORTER

C'mon, you gotta let us in, pal.
Hardcastle on the Supreme Court
is news.

DOORMAN

The judge told me I'm not
suppose to let anyone in,
so I'm not letting anyone in.

The crowd groans.

REPORTER #2

Does he have a statement?

DOORMAN

Nope.

CUT TO:

100

INT. HARDCASTLE'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

100

McCormick is packing and Hardcastle is looking out the window at the crowd of press reporters. The T.V. is on, but the sound is turned down: on it we can see various pictures and slides from an obvious Hardcastle editorial.

HARDCASTLE

There must be a hundred of 'em out
there. Kinda scary, isn't it?

MCCORMICK

Hey, Judge. You're gonna be a
public figure from now on. Get
used to it.

HARDCASTLE

I'd never get used to it, McCormick.
Not me.

CONTINUED

100

CONTINUED

100

McCORMICK

You better.

He picks up the FRONT PAGE of the WASHINGTON POST and hands it to Hardcastle.

101

INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

101

A picture of HARDCASTLE and a caption that reads:

Presidential nod just formality
as Crime Fighter readies for
Supreme Bench.

102

RESUME - SCENE

102

Hardcastle is looking at the paper and McCormick smiles.

McCORMICK

(warm)

You got it, Judge. The culmination
of a brilliant career.

HARDCASTLE

(humble)

I was just lucky.

McCORMICK

No you weren't, you kept chewing
on Huntley's leg until you got to
the bottom of what most guys would'a
backed off of. And, you put one
of the most corrupt powerbrokers
in this country behind bars.

HARDCASTLE

We put him behind bars, McCormick.
Thanks.

Hardcastle looks at the paper and the telephone rings.
McCormick picks it up.

McCORMICK

Hello.

(reacts)

Yes, sir.

(to Hardcastle)

It's for you, Judge.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Who is it?

McCormick puts his hand over the receiver.

MCCORMICK

The President of the United States.

HARDCASTLE

C'mon, McCormick, quit foolin' around here. Just tell me who it is?

MCCORMICK

It's the President of the United States.

Hardcastle grunts and grabs the telephone.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, Hardcastle here, who's this?

(reacts: to McCormick)

It's the President of the United States!

(to telephone)

Yes, sir. Well, of course I'm honored. Very honored. But, if you read my letter I think you'll understand why, sir.

McCormick can't believe what he's hearing.

HARDCASTLE

And, Mister President, sir... thanks a lot for asking me.

Hardcastle hangs up and McCormick just stares at him.

HARDCASTLE

What are you looking at, McCormick?

MCCORMICK

You said, "no"?

HARDCASTLE

Yup.

MCCORMICK

The President asked you to be on his Supreme Court and you said, "no".

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

That's right.

(beat)

Look, McCormick, I was thinkin' about it. If I'm sitting on the Supreme Court bench, that means I won't be out there in the streets going after the bad guys. A lotta of them will probably end up getting away.

(beat)

Not to mention, that you'd no longer be in my judicial stay.

Hardcastle smiles and McCormick just shakes his head.

MCCORMICK

You're incredible.

HARDCASTLE

Now yer cookin'.

Off their looks, we:

FREEZE FRAME
FADE OUT

THE END