ACT I - SCENE 1 - MEET THE CANDIDATES

Scene: The stage is a split scene denoting the two different Campaigning Locations of the two candidates.

There are podiums set up on each side. One side has a sign that reads, “Wainright for President!”. The other side has a sign that reads, “Vote for Carbondale!”. Both sides are decorated with red, white and blue streamers and balloons.

Center Stage is the YMI newsroom desk. Seated behind the desk are the YMI news anchors, LANCE NOZALL and DAPHNE MOUTHINGEAR.

FX: (TRACK 01) Entrance music - “I’M IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE!”

A group of CHORUS members enter, excitedly, from each side and go to their candidates podiums in anticipation of his arrival. There are several women wearing blonde wigs on the WAINRIGHT side.

Fade out (TRACK 01)

SPOTLIGHT hits YMI News desk.

FX: FF TO (TRACK 02) - YMI News leader

PAUSE (TRACK 02)

LANCE NOZALL
Good evening, ladies and gentlemen! And welcome to YMI NEWS! We deliver all the news that we think you should know about and then?... We’ll tell you what we’ve decided it means because... It’s our job to tell you what you think! I’m Lance Nozall!

This just in! Both presidential candidates are about to reveal the details of their campaign platforms. We’re expecting each one to come to the podium at any minute.

(MORE)
LANCE NOZALL (CONTD)
Our political news commentators are standing by, at each location, ready to bring them to you live! Let’s now go to our own Daphne Moutthingear for additional updates...
Daphne?

DAPHNE MOUTHINGEAR
Thanks, Lance! That’s right! We’ll be hearing from both candidates, followed by our media explanation of what we think they actually said so you can then know what you should think about it. Let’s go on location with Dave Bungler who is with the Wainright campaign in the former Ambassador’s hometown of Bangor, Maine.

SPOTLIGHT out on YMI News desk.

SPOTLIGHT up on DAVE BUNGLER.

DAVE BUNGLER is holding his microphone in one hand and his ear with the other, suggesting he is securing his earpiece.

DAVE BUNGLER
That’s right, Daphne. Dexter Wainright is the chosen candidate of the Old Glory Party. As you know, he campaigned, throughout the primary, on his foreign policy experience, having been Ambassador to Estonia for six years... Ten years ago. We’re waiting for Ambassador Wainright to step up to the podium right behind me. He’s expected to outline his campaign platform fully when he arrives.

Enter WAINRIGHT. He flirts with the blondes as he goes to the podium.

Wait! Here he comes now. Let’s listen in.

SPOTLIGHT OUT on DAVE BUNGLER.

STAGE LIGHTS dim on CARBONDALE side.

CARBONDALE side freezes in place.

WAINRIGHT steps up to the podium, his handlers gather behind him. A cheering CROWD is formed in front to listen to him. Some are carrying placards.
NOTE: Each candidate gives EXACTLY the same speech, EXACTLY the same way, with EXACTLY the same gestures.

WAINRIGHT
My fellow Americans and members of the Old Glory Party! It is with great pride and honor that I carry our party’s banner in this Presidential Election.

I want to thank all my supporters, without whom we could never have succeeded. I especially want to thank my lovely wife, Ophelia. I also want to thank my five wonderful sons, Blake, Kirby, Louis, Maynard, and Chad for lending a hand wherever possible.

Now!... I want you to be assured that my administration will be dedicated to taking care of the elderly and the poor.

(The CROWD cheers)

I am fully aware of how important jobs are.

(The CROWD cheers)

I also want to assure everyone that the issue of taxes is something that I will consider fully.

(The CROWD cheers)

I plan to work with Congress to see to it that each and every person in this great country is totally safe and secure.

(The CROWD cheers)

And, finally, I want to stress that I will be humbly reaching out across party lines in order to unite us all. It is my sincere hope that I will be able to make it clear to all Americans that I will be a President for all the people. With your help and support we will make this country even greater!

(The CROWD cheers)
WAINRIGHT shakes hands in the background while DAVE BUNGLER steps forward as if in front of the camera and readdresses the anchors back at the station.

SPOTLIGHT UP on DAVE BUNGLER

DAVE BUNGLER
Well, there you have it! I’ve spoken to the Wainright people and they’re very confident that they have the strongest platform and they’re sure it will carry them all the way to the White House. Back to you Lance and Daphne!

SPOTLIGHT OUT on DAVE BUNGLER

SPOTLIGHT UP on YMI News desk.

DAPHNE MOUTHINGEAR
(Ogling over Wainright and strongly for him.)
So, Lance, it would seem the Old Glory Party Candidate is covering all the bases with their party platform. Former Ambassador Wainright sounds like he’s very strong on women’s issues and I especially like his strong stance on his foreign policy.

LANCE NOZALL
(To DAPHNE, confused.)
Really?... I didn’t hear anything about...

DAPHNE sneers at LANCE.

LANCE quickly goes back to addressing the “TV audience”.

Yes indeed, Daphne! But, let’s go now to Pocatello, Idaho where our YMI News correspondent, Ethel Rupert is covering MAXWELL CARBONDALE... Ethel?

STAGE LIGHTS dim on WAINRIGHT side.

WAINRIGHT side freezes in place.

STAGE LIGHTS up on CARBONDALE side.

CARBONDALE side become active.
SPOTLIGHT UP on ETHEL RUPERT.

ETHEL RUPERT is holding a microphone in one hand and her earpiece with the other.

ETHEL RUPERT
Yes, Lance. I’m here at the Yankee Doodle Party headquarters in lovely Pocatello, Idaho.

CARBONDALE enters while ETHEL is talking in the foreground. He begins to meet and greet on his way to the podium.

CARBONDALE is handed someone’s baby to hold for a photo op.

FX: FF TO (TRACK 03) - Baby cries.

The second he takes the baby, the baby wails, showing that babies don’t like him. He rolls his eyes and smiles insincerely and quickly hands the baby back, and the baby stops crying.

(PAUSE TRACK 03)

This, of course, is the hometown of Maxwell Carbondale. Mr. Carbondale ran in the primary on his strong economic background... as Comptroller of the great city of Pocatello, Idaho for four years. As you can see, Mr. Carbondale is approaching the platform now. Let’s listen in...

SPOTLIGHT OUT on ETHEL RUPERT.

MAXWELL CARBONDALE steps up to the podium. His handlers are behind him. A cheering CROWD has gathered to listen. Some are carrying placards supporting CARBONDALE.

NOTE: Each candidate gives EXACTLY the same speech, EXACTLY the same way, with EXACTLY the same gestures.
MAXWELL CARBONDALE
My fellow Americans and members of the Yankee Doodle Party! It is with great pride and honor that I carry our party’s banner in this Presidential Election. I want to thank all my supporters, without whom we could never have succeeded. I especially want to thank my lovely wife, Nadine. I also want to thank my son Maxwell, Jr., and my daughter Isabella for being here and for lending a hand wherever possible.

CARBONDALE now gives the same speech as WAINRIGHT.

Now!... I want you to be assured that my administration will be dedicated to taking care of the elderly and the poor.

(The CROWD cheers)

I am fully aware of how important jobs are.

(The CROWD cheers)

I also want to assure everyone that the issue of taxes is something that I will consider fully.

(The CROWD cheers)

I plan to work with Congress to see to it that each and every person in this great country is totally safe and secure.

(The CROWD cheers)

And, finally, I want to stress that I will be humbly reaching out across party lines in order to unite us all. It is my sincere hope that I will be able to make it clear to all Americans that I will be a President for all the people. With your help and support we will make this country even greater!

(The CROWD cheers)

MUSIC RISES

FX: FF TO (TRACK 04) - Music “I’M IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE!”

SONG: “I’M IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE”
The CARBONDALE CHORUS has their backs to the audience as they listen intently to CARBONDALE.

CARBONDALE
(Sings)
I’M IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE
I REALLY, REALLY CARE
I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
MY SINCERITY IS RARE
I’LL PROMISE YOU WHATEVER THAT YOU WANT TO GET ME THERE
I’M IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE ‘CAUSE I REALLY, REALLY CARE

The CARBONDALE CHORUS turns to sing to the audience.

CARBONDALE CHORUS
(Sing)
HE’S IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE CAUSE HE REALLY, REALLY CARES

The CHORUS turns back to look at CARBONDALE.

STAGE LIGHTS dim on CARBONDALE side.

CARBONDALE side freezes in place.

STAGE LIGHTS up on WAINRIGHT side.

WAINRIGHT side becomes active.

The WAINRIGHT CHORUS has their backs to the audience as they listen intently to WAINRIGHT as he sings.
WAINRIGHT
(Sings)

I’M IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE
I HOPE THAT YOU CAN SEE

I’M GENEROUS AND HUMBLE
THERE’S NOBODY GREAT AS ME

I’LL TELL YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT
SO WON’T YOU VOTE FOR ME?
I’M IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE AND THIS GREAT
SOCIETY

The WAINRIGHT CHORUS turns to sing to the
audience.

WAINRIGHT CHORUS
(Sing)

HE’S IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE AND THIS GREAT
SOCIETY

The WAINRIGHT CHORUS turns back to look at
WAINRIGHT.

Music vamps til cue. Dialog over Music in
background.

SPOTLIGHT hits WAINRIGHT.

WAINRIGHT
(Speaks)
My fellow Americans! I want to put an end to all those ugly rumors right here and now!
I am a very **happily married man**. And even though I couldn’t **help** but notice how very
**lovely** the women of Estonia **were**, while I was Ambassador there, I want to **assure** the
American people that there was **never** any **impropriety**.

The WAINRIGHT CHORUS turns to sing to the
audience.
WAINRIGHT CHORUS
(Sing)
HE’S IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE
HE REALLY, REALLY CARES

WAINRIGHT CHORUS turns back to WAINRIGHT.

SPOTLIGHT out on WAINRIGHT.

WAINRIGHT side freezes in place.

SPOTLIGHT up on CARBONDALE.

CARBONDALE side becomes active.

CARBONDALE
(Speaks)
I want the American people to know that my opponent is running a terrible smear campaign against me. That incident with those missing city funds, while I was Comptroller of the great city of Pocatello, Idaho, was blown way out of proportion. I had absolutely nothing to do with any of it, and I want to assure you that as soon as the media brought it to my attention, I made sure to put all the money back.

The CARBONDALE CHORUS turns to sing to the audience.

CARBONDALE CHORUS
(Sings)
HE’S HONEST AND HE’S FORTHRIGHT
AND WE OUGHT TO BE AWARE

CARBONDALE CHORUS turns back to CARBONDALE.

SPOTLIGHT out on CARBONDALE.

CARBONDALE side freezes in place.

SPOTLIGHT up on WAINRIGHT.
WAINRIGHT side becomes active.

WAINRIGHT is making flirting gestures toward all the blondes in front of him.

WAINRIGHT notices he’s being watched and quickly stops flirting to speak the next line.

WAINRIGHT  
(Speaks)  
People! A vote for me is a vote for a brighter tomorrow!

SPOTLIGHT out on WAINRIGHT.

CARBONDALE side becomes active.

A WOMAN hands her baby to CARBONDALE. As he takes the baby, he realizes the baby is soaking wet, in need of a diaper change.

CARBONDALE holds the baby out and away from him and winces while he tries to smile.

The WAINRIGHT CHORUS turns to sing to the audience.

WAINRIGHT CHORUS  
(Sings to audience)  
HE’LL MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.  
WE’LL SHINE FROM SEA TO SEA

Chorus turns back to WAINRIGHT.

WAINRIGHT side freezes in place.

SPOTLIGHT up on CARBONDALE.

The WOMAN shows her shock and surprise and immediately takes the baby back in an apologetic way.