

STATE YOUR SOUNDBITE

PILOT

Written by

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Writer's Draft
7/5/17

FADE IN:

MUSIC UP: URGENT, DRAMATIC NEWS THEME

ANNCR (V.O.)

Coming to you live from Washington,
D.C...

GRAPHIC BUILD: TERRORISM. FISCAL POLICY. UNEMPLOYMENT.

ANNCR

The news program the Beltway fears
and the people trust...

AND FASTER: HEALTH CARE. SOFT MONEY. TAX REFORM.

AND EVEN FASTER: CONSTITUTIONAL MALFEASANCE. EMINENT DOMAIN.
BLAMING IMMIGRANTS FOR EVERYTHING.

ANNCR (CONT'D)

A nourishing staple in your home
since 1958, It's "State Your
Soundbite."

TITLE UP: STATE YOUR SOUNDBITE.

INT. "MEET THE PRESS"-LIKE SET

ANNCR

With your host, William Musso.

WILLIAM

Good morning, citizens. I'm William Musso, and we have a better show than last week for you. Our lead story this week involves the Trump administration's ties to Russia. To quote Howard Baker on Richard Nixon, "What is going on, and why won't anyone tell me about it?" Today on *State Your Soundbite*, we will get to the bottom of this potential bombshell, providing new detail which will expose the nesting doll inside the nesting doll inside a riddle wrapped in a mystery.

(beat)

...inside an enigma, inside of a much larger nesting doll.

(beat)

...with, perhaps, a side of borscht.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

(turning dramatically to
another camera)

Russia.

CORNER GRAPHIC: SEAN CONNERY IN "HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER."

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Is it a shell of its former cold war self, or a freshly rouged and powdered mail order bride of a global opponent? To understand, we need look no further than the Russian economy.

CORNER GRAPHIC: IMAGES OF RUSSIAN IMPORTS.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Russia's top imports are oil, vodka, and murder. Increasingly, however, Vladimir Putin has funneled resources into a new growth industry: throwing old school hammers and sickles into other countries' elections so he looks better by comparison. In some cases he has done this so effectively that even the Russians cannot believe what they've accomplished.

CORNER GRAPHIC: PHOTO OF TRUMP LOOKING PARTICULARLY DOPEY.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Today, in a *State Your Soundbite* exclusive, we bring you a Russian spy who claims to have colluded with the Trump campaign while posing as a ketchup sommelier in Trump Tower.

William turns toward a BLANK VIDEO SCREEN.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Now, clearly this spy is putting himself in grave danger by appearing here. Any identification by the Kremlin will result in certain death. So we at *State your Soundbite* have taken every precaution to ensure his safety. First, we've pixilated his face, much as, say, the diners' faces might be pixilated in a Golden Corral commercial. Next, we've disguised his voice so there's no possibility of his Russian bosses ascertaining his ID. Let's bring him online now.

VIDEO: RUSSIAN SPY - who is NOT pixilated.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Good evening...um...what should I
call you?

RUSSIAN SPY

(in an unaltered voice)

Ivan. Call me Ivan.

WILLIAM

"Ivan." mmmm...I dunno. How about
"Boris"?

RUSSIAN SPY

Fine. Boris.

WILLIAM

That's better. Now, Boris, you
claim to have met with Trump
campaign officials in collusion to
tip the election his way. That's a
strong allegation. Can you provide
proof?

RUSSIAN SPY

Yes I can. On August 5th, 2016,
four Trump campaign surrogates
dined in the restaurant. Their
names were--

He freezes.

RUSSIAN SPY (CONT'D)

Wait. I am looking at a monitor here, and my face is not pixilated.

WILLIAM

It may be a technical glitch. We'll check on it.

RUSSIAN SPY

What do you mean, "We'll check on it"? Is my voice altered?

WILLIAM

How would I know? We've never spoken before.

SUPER: THE RUSSIAN SPY'S NAME APPEARS AS "NIKOLAI POPOLOV"

RUSSIAN SPY

(looking at the monitor,
alarmed)

What's my name doing there!?!?

The Spy struggles to ditch his microphone, CURSING in Russian.

RUSSIAN SPY (CONT'D)

Chyort voz'mi! Debil Yobani!!!

As he fumbles to exit, the screen finally pixilates.

WILLIAM

There we go! All fixed.

The Russian Spy storms off, shaking his (pixilated) fist at the screen.

SUPER: "NIKOLAI POPOLOV" is replaced with "GRUMPY GUSTAV."

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Clearly, "Boris" is in a highly agitated state. Probably because United States production facilities are far more advanced than what he's used to in Moscow. Oh, well, that's an occupational hazard of being a traitor, I suppose. Oh, what a tangled web we weave...

(beat)

No matter! We'll try to reconnect with Niko--BORIS--when he gathers his faculties.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. STUDIO

William now sits at a table, and has been joined by EMILY JONES and TRIP GAMBRELL.

WILLIAM

Welcome back to *State Your Soundbite*, the news program that asks the tough question, and follows up with an even tougher question no matter what the first answer was. Joining me today to talk about Flint, Michigan are Trump EPA spokesman Trip Gambrell, and Emily Jones of environmental group "H2O N.O.W." Thank you both for joining me.

TRIP

My pleasure, William.

EMILY

Glad to be here.

WILLIAM

Emily, you first. You feel water is important.

EMILY

(taken aback)

Are you serious?

WILLIAM

Yes. This is a serious program.

EMILY

Of course it's important! It's what scientists look for on other planets to see if they can sustain life. And yet, after a Guinness world record level of Republican foot dragging, the citizens of Flint still don't have water. It's been three years.

TRIP

That not true. There's plenty of water in Flint!

EMILY

Not *drinkable* water.

TRIP

You liberals look at that as a
problem. But the Trump
administration sees it as an
opportunity.

He begins to pull out a visual aid.

TRIP (CONT'D)

William, may I?

EMILY

Jesus.

WILLIAM

Please do.

CU on ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS of FLINT WATER PARK.

TRIP

Introducing "Flintastic Water
Adventure." The world's first city-
wide water park.

EMILY

That's the stupidest thing I've
ever--

WILLIAM

(cutting her off)

Interesting. Go on...

Trip begins flipping through artistic renditions of the park.

TRIP

"The Flintastic Water Adventure" is 20 square miles, making it the biggest, most technologically-advanced, and most *awesome* water park in the world. There's also a Starbucks, a Chipotle, and several gift shops, so the job creation multiplier extends beyond the park itself. And best of all, the entire park is powered by the Flint water supply!

Emily is dumbfounded--momentarily speechless.

WILLIAM

You have a lot of nerve.

EMILY

I'll say!

WILLIAM

When making a presentation such as this, a communications professional always concludes with a tagline.

(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

One that's conversational yet
pithy, specific yet all-
emcompassing, familiar, yet
featuring that little "TM" mark.

Trip proudly produces a board containing the tagline.

TRIP

Ahem. The Flintastic Water
Adventure. "Because without water,
fun itself would be impossible."

WILLIAM

I have chills.

EMILY

And I've got BS reflux! This plan--
if it's even worth being called
that--does nothing more than
monetize a public health crisis.
How does this in any way, shape or
form address the water crisis in
Flint?? What are the citizens
supposed to drink?

WILLIAM

There will be refreshments served
throughout the park.

EMILY

Will there be drinking fountains?

WILLIAM

We're working on that.

EMILY

I really believed this administration couldn't get any more cynical and bald-faced in their disdain for the citizens of the country. Replacing Obamacare with a tax cut for the rich and a middle finger to people who need cancer treatment. Installing a Muslim ban that breaks up families, but only families who immigrate from countries where Trump doesn't do business. But this one, this one takes the human excrement cake. Without drinking water, humans cannot exist. You're implicitly acknowledging the water in Flint isn't fit to drink, that it's only good for recreation, so why not turn a profit while the people of Flint get sick and die?

TRIP

At least we *have* a plan. What's
yours?

EMILY

FIX THE (BLEEPING) PIPES!!!

There's an awkward silence.

WILLIAM

(brightly)

Sounds like two innovative plans!
If I may add a personal note, I'm
confident you can reach some sort
of recreational/drinkable
compromise. We'll be right back
after this word.

CUT TO:

PARODY COMMERCIAL 1:

EXT. CAR DRIVING DOWN A SUBURBAN STREET - MID-DAY.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

An attractive, harried WOMAN in her mid-30s tries to find a
radio station to her liking.

No matter which station she chooses, it's the news--and it's all bad.

NEWS REPORTERS (V.O.)

And today, President Trump--

(she switches stations)

...Nancy Pelosi vowed to...

(switches stations)

Kim Jong Un tested another--

(switches)

TRUMP (V.O.)

"And who's going to pay for this big, beautiful wall...?"

She turns off the radio and hangs her head, beaten down.

ANNCR

When you need a break from the constant stream of breaking news...when you need sanctuary in your sanctuary city...

She suddenly gets an idea, immediately brightening up and hanging a U-TURN.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNMARKED CINDER BLOCK BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

She pulls up behind a sketchy-looking building with an equally sketchy-looking metal door. It looks as though it's in a rough, industrial part of town.

ANNCR

Come to the place that understands
your needs.

She knocks on the door and a peephole slides upon. A pair of eyes peer out.

PEEPHOLE PERSON

Password.

WOMAN

"Let me the (BLEEP) in."

The door opens. REVEAL an undecorated concrete room with three or four apron-wearing CHEFS stand at the ready before pots and griddles. The decor is nonexistent. It looks not unlike a prison, with metal tables.

ANNCR

Come to Binge Bunker.

HAPPY, MINDLESS FAST FOOD MUSIC UP.

The Woman sits down. An obscene amount of food shows up.

CLOSE ON: Fried chicken and waffles, buried under a mountain of whipped cream. Donuts. Bacon. An entire roast chicken. A bag of Fritos dumped on top. An entire chocolate cake.

ANNCR (CONT'D)

Here, we're too busy cooking all your favorites to judge you. Dig in. It's this, or opioid addiction.

The woman pushes away from the table, her face covered in a gluttonous mess. She waddles to the checkout and slams a crumbled wad of bills at the CLERK, who hands her a roll of paper towels in return.

ANNCR (CONT'D)

And remember, Binge Bunker is cash only. So there's never a paper trail.

She leaves, taking a generous hit from the complimentary box of wine on the way out.

ANNCR (CONT'D)

Binge Bunker. Fill the emptiness.

LOGO + TAGLINE:

BINGE NOOK. FILL THE EMPTINESS.

MOTION GRAPHIC TITLE BUILD: WHAT DO THE NUMBERS SAY?

WILLIAM

Welcome back. In our "What Do the Numbers Say?" segment, we dig into statistics in ways no other political show dares. Joining me is internet wizard Cain Dictum.

A hip-looking researcher out of Silicon Valley central casting, CAIN DICTUM, sits across the table.

CAIN

Good morning, William.

WILLIAM

Cain, what sort of arithmetic alchemy have you cooked up for us today?

CAIN

We wanted to look at the role of identity politics in local economies.

WILLIAM

Ah! The "third rail" of politics.

CAIN

Our research shows there are
actually at least seven third
rails.

WILLIAM

This is why we all marvel at what
you do. Please continue...

A TOUCH-SENSITIVE FLAT SCREEN APPEARS BETWEEN THEM, FEATURING
A LIST OF OBSCURED ITEMS, LIKE "FAMILY FEUD."

CAIN

We asked 100 respondents in Wallace
County Kansas, "Who do you blame
for the lack of good jobs in the
current economy?"

WILLIAM SLAMS HIS HAND ON A BUZZER.

SFX: DING!

WILLIAM

Corporate mega-mergers, leading to
a decrease in competition, an
increase in lobbying activity, and
the monopolization of American
business.

Like *Family Feud*, A RED "X" appears on the screen,
accompanied by SFX: BUZZZZ!

CAIN

No. But good answer!. The number
five answer....

The 5th answer flips over.

CAIN (CONT'D)

..."Mexicans." Number four...

The 4th answer flips.

CAIN (CONT'D)

..."Muslims." Number three...

The 3rd answer flips.

CAIN (CONT'D)

"Hillary." Number two...

The 2nd answer flips.

CAIN (CONT'D)

"That back-stabbing bastard in
accounting." And the number one
answer...

The number one answer flips.

CAIN (CONT'D)

"Seriously, Mexicans."

WILLIAM

Cain, are there a disproportionate number of Mexicans in Wallace County, Kansas?

CAIN

It's roughly 2% Hispanic.

WILLIAM

Impressive that 2% of the population have that much influence in the Wallace County economy. OK, on to the 2020 election. What do you have for us?

CAIN

Some exciting new developments. But the real battle royale brewing is in the 2028 presidential race.

WILLIAM

2028? That's...

(counts on fingers)

...three elections from now.

CAIN

Correct.

A map of the US comes up on the screen, depicting RED and BLUE states.

CAIN (CONT'D)

Here is the breakup of the electoral college from the 2016 election.

WILLIAM

And how will the Electoral College shake out in 2028?

CAIN

It all depends on how the states are redrawn after the Civil War of 2022. Here's our best guess.

On the flat screen, the state lines of the U.S.A. morph into a post-civil war monstrosity, with Canada annexing Minnesota, Texas adrift in the Gulf of Mexico, and Florida drawn as an anatomically-correct dick.

CAIN (CONT'D)

From there, it's a sprint to the finish. The big question is, how will the millennium-postbellum generation vote?

WILLIAM

Millennium...

CAIN

Millennium-Postbellum. The children of millennials coming of age after the civil war--A war that many think tanks are calling either "The War to End All Wars Until the Next One" or "Brought to You by Progressive Insurance."

WILLIAM

Fascinating. And the data back this up?

CAIN

Some datum do.

WILLIAM

What political leanings do you see from these future voters?

CAIN

Polling at a pre-teen age is notoriously unreliable, but we've obtained drawings which indicate which way they're leaning.

WILLIAM

Brilliant.

CAIN

Let's get started.

A precocious architectural drawing of an office building appears on the screen.

WILLIAM

What can we see here?

CAIN

It's a crude but impressive office building--advanced for a seven-year-old. There's architectural talent here. But let's take a closer look.

With a telestrator, he highlights parts of the drawing.

CAIN (CONT'D)

The bathrooms are a giveaway. There are several on each floor--mens, womens, unisex, trans, pre- and post-op, handicapped...

WILLIAM

At first glance I missed those.

CAIN

Now, look here.

(circling a few floors)

Three floors dedicated to HR.

(MORE)

CAIN (CONT'D)

That's a lot of floor space
dedicated to employee complaints.
So, clearly, we've got a future
democrat here.

WILLIAM

You can get all that from a
drawing.

CAIN

With advanced analytics, yes.

WILLIAM

Truly amazing.

Another drawing appears. This one shows bombs falling and
guns blaring with an arrow indicating the target as "McKinley
Elementary School."

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

This one has it all: Pro-military,
pro-Second Amendment, and, given
the educational target, we feel
confident classifying this as a GOP
voter.

A third drawing appears on the screen. A man in a MAGA hat
stomps around throwing a tantrum, while his wife cries and
pours herself a drink. A confused child stands between them.

CAIN

As you can see, this is a toss-up. Correlation analysis tells us it largely depends on who gets custody, so we threw this one out.

WILLIAM

This is truly "next level" research. What can we conclude from all this?

The screen shows a breakdown of parties.

CAIN

We project the breakdown as follows: 19% Democrat, 17% Republican.

WILLIAM

Is that enough of a youth vote to throw the election to the Democrats?

CAIN

Not even close. That only adds up to 36%. Our models show that the majority will cast a protest vote for Bernie Sanders.

WILLIAM

So Sanders will run as a third-party candidate in 2028.

CAIN

Oh, no. Our actuary tables show he'll be dead by 2024.

WILLIAM

My goodness--that *is* a protest vote! Once again you've provided the sort of unbiased statistical analysis our viewers won't find anywhere else. Some other shows put their thumb on their polling scale--then often one or sometimes both of their buttocks cheeks. Thank you, Cain. What's next?

CAIN

We're going to study the brainwaves of cojoined twins at opposite ends of the political spectrum.

WILLIAM

Can't wait. Don't stop holding that two-way mirror up to the Chips Ahoy-gorging focus group that is America, my friend.

(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

(to camera)

At *State Your Soundbite*, we expect
our sponsors to take corporate
responsibility seriously. Here's a
word from our friends at Pfizer.

CUT TO:

PARODY COMMERCIAL 2

INT. FAMILY ROOM - EVENING

A 40-year old HUSBAND in a reclining chair flips the channels
on his flat screen. He's interrupted by an unseen ANNOUNCER.

ANNCR (V.O.)

So you take a pill for erectile
dysfunction.

The Husband stops flipping and looks up.

ANNCR (V.O.)

...but it can take the spontaneity
out of romance.

He nods in resigned agreement.

In a nearby chair, his WIFE is curled up with a book.

WIFE

And you'd tried "Female Viagra."

But that only seems to work
sporadically.

She smiles ruefully--the stuff doesn't work. The Announcer
now has their full attention.

ANNCR (V.O.)

Wouldn't it be fantastic if there
was one sexual dysfunction pill for
everyone?

What?

MAN

What?

WIFE

ANNCR (V.O.)

(pronounced like
"amorous")

Introducing "Famorous"...

An ARM extends, offering them each a pill in a little
disposable paper cup.

ANNCR (V.O.)

The libido pill for the whole
family!

The Husband and Wife shrug and down the pills.

ANNCR (V.O.)

Yes, with Famous, there's finally
one pill for the sexual
optimization of everyone in your
family!

INT. FAMILY ROOM - LATER

The Husband and Wife hold hands and do the "when the moment is right" look from the Cialis ads, as the front door opens and their happily-ravaged 16-year-old DAUGHTER enters. The Husband and Wife smile approvingly.

ANNCR (V.O.)

That's right, everyone!

INT. HUSBAND & WIFE'S BEDROOM - LATER

In bed, the couple start to embrace, but stop when they hear
SFX: HEADBOARD POUNDING IN ADJACENT ROOM.

INT. ADJACENT BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

GRANDMA AND GRANDPA go at it like crazed weasels; plenty of
octogenarian tongue.

ANNCR (V.O.)

No more confusing trips to the pharmacy or botched prescription refills. With Famosous, you can rest at ease, knowing your entire family is free from sexual dysfunction.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

The Wife knocks on her 12-year-old BOY'S bedroom doors. He emerges, rubbing sleep from his eyes. TIGHT ON: Ravaged BARBIE on his bed that he's clearly had his way with.

Mom tousles the young lad's hair proudly, and follows him to the KITCHEN. There, as she pours a cup of coffee for her Husband, she sees the FAMILY DOG, spread eagle and staring at them--his naughty bits exposed.

CUT TO:

HERO SHOT OF PILL BOTTLE.

ANNCR (V.O.)

You'd do anything for your family.
Doesn't your family deserve
Famosous?

A second bottle is placed down. The Pfizer logo appears.

ANNCR (V.O.)

Now available in a gummy.

ROLLING DISCLAIMER SUPERS: Always practice safe sex. If feelings of incest or bestiality occur, stop taking Famosous immediately. Famosous may cause sleeplessness, pelvic cramps, phantom thrusting and bed scorches. Mormons and practicing Catholics should consult their doctor before taking Famosous.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

William sits at a large round table. Seated around him are a 4-STAR GENERAL; a tarted-up Trump spokesperson, CINNAMON, who looks like a stripper; a strident, intellectual professor, TERESA; and a regular guy "civilian," SAM.

WILLIAM

Welcome back to our final segment,
which we call "Final Segment."

He goes around the table, introducing everyone.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

We are pleased to welcome Trump
spokesperson Cinnamon Tryst;
Professor of international
thermonuclear policy at Georgetown,
Teresa Jennings; 4-star general
Titus "Collateral Damage" Mathews;
and our "civilian" panelist, father
of three Sam McVey of Grand Rapids,
Michigan.

(beat)

(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

In our final segment, we broach a topic, and we ask you answer in 140 characters or less so our stenographer, Mabel Tappella, can type your quotes directly onto our twitter feed. Mabel's been with us since 1967. Everyone ready?

Nods all around. MABEL, who looks to be a spry 90, sits poised over her keyboard.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Excellent. Our question this week is as follows: What's your opinion of the Trump administration's nuclear weapons policy?

In rapid-fire progression, William works the table.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Cinnamon?

CINNAMON

The preemptive use of nuclear weapons can be a fantastic deterrent.

WILLIAM

Teresa?

TERESA

(reacting to Cinnamon's
statement)

What??

WILLIAM

135 characters left, give or take
an extra question mark.

TERESA

The randomness of this incompetent
administration's foreign policy
negates any nuclear triad
advantage.

WILLIAM

General?

GENERAL

"He will drink the wine of God's
wrath, poured full strength into
the cup of his anger, and he will
be tormented with fire and sulfur
in the presence of the holy angels
and in the presence of the Lamb."

WILLIAM

Beautiful quote. But can you cut it
for twitter?

GENERAL

(whistles as though a bomb
were dropping)

BAM! KABOOM! KAPLOWY!!!

WILLIAM

Got all that Mabel?

Mabel nods as she types.

MABEL

(without looking up)

Is there an "E" in "KAPLOWY"?

WILLIAM

I don't believe so. Sam?

SAM

I've got a wife and three kids.
Isn't it the president's job to
keep us safe?

WILLIAM

General?

GENERAL

(rumbling, mushroom cloud
SFX)

BuuuuuRRRRRRRRRRHHHHH!!!!

WILLIAM

Cinnamon?

CINNAMON

We have so many nuclear bombs.
Really, the most. They're so
beautiful. Obama hardly had any.

WILLIAM

Teresa?

TERESA

These are not serious people, Trump
is an idiot, and they're in charge
of a nuclear arsenal that can
destroy the world several times
over--

WILLIAM

Too many characters. Sam?

Sam has left. There's only an empty chair.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Stage fright. We've seen this
before. Keeping up with the
seasoned professionals we book on
State your Soundbite isn't for the
feint of heart. General, play us
out.

GENERAL

BOOOOOOOM!!! Ssssss...BLAMO!!!

BLOOEY!!!! "Everything's on

FIRE!!!" !!! KAPOW!!!

(blowing like a desolate
wind)

Whooooosssshhhhhh!

William turns to camera.

WILLIAM

We'll be right back with my closing
commentary.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO - LATER

William, seated alone at the desk, turns to camera. The
lights dim dramatically as he delivers his closing remarks.

SUPER: WILLIAM'S SIGNATURE SCRAWLS ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE
SCREEN. AS THE SIGNATURE APPEARS, THERE'S A MISSPELLING, AND
IT'S SCRATCHED OUT AND CORRECTED UNTIL THE SIGNATURE IS AN
UNSIGHTLY MESS.

WILLIAM

In today's closing remarks, I'd like to talk about compromise. Once, compromise was an honored Washington tradition. Kentucky senator William Clay was known as "The Great Compromiser." But look at him today.

INSET: A bust of William Clay with the chiseled inscription, "THE GREAT PUSSY."

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

What happened? Why, it's as plain as the stoic look of resignation on Henry's face. Henry Clay wasn't a "Democrat," or "Republican." He was a Whig. Whigs were known for...we're not sure what they were known for, it was so long ago. Still, Henry Clay, one of the most famous Whigs, was known--nay, *honored*--for compromise. Yes, compromise. His constituents and fellow Whigs looked up to him so much for his compromising derring-do that they nominated him for president three times.

(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

He never won, which was probably a blessing in disguise, since every Whig who ever became president caught the "Inauguration Croup" and died.

One thing we do know the Whigs did was oppose the policies of Andrew Jackson, a populist leader who ignored the advice of everyone, lashing out at anyone who opposed him with a hickory switch--which was considered an early form of twitter. So in the spirit of reaching across the aisle without incurring the wrath of our current populist president, I suggest to members of Congress, be they registered as Democrat or Republican, be compromise-embracing Whigs behind closed doors. Or if Whig carries too much 1800s "party of compromise" baggage, call your new secret party of compromise a different hair-related nickname: Muttonchops. Van Dyke. David Letterman. Or simply, a Beard.

(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Many of you have beards already.
Lindsay Graham, the next time
you're out for dinner with a friend
from the Democratic party,
announce, in the spirit of
compromise, "This is my beard."

The lights come back up.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

A quick note: Russian spy Nikolai
Popolov has fallen from the roof of
the Westin Hotel, just a few blocks
away. Our thoughts and prayers for
a speedy recovery.

William rises from his desk and walks a few feet off stage to
a large globe. He presses a button, and the globe opens--it's
one of those globe cocktail bars. He begins preparing a
Bloody Mary while maintaining his eye contact.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

That's our program for this week.
We'll see you next week. In the
meantime, keep your head up, look
'em in the eye, and...

(raises glass to camera)

...state your soundbite.

William adds a stalk of celery and toasts the viewer, as
CREDITS ROLL.

END OF SHOW