

~~RACHEL. And do you recognize *these* memos—also from you—
(*She hands them to him, one by one.*) on the cost of tuition at state uni-
versities, and addressing the concerns of National Guardsmen, and
measuring the quality of our drinking water?~~

~~ARTHUR. Oh this is great television.~~

~~RACHEL. Were these all written by you, Governor?~~

~~NED. (*He's been looking them over.*) Yeah, these are... me.~~

~~RACHEL. Great. Now, jumping ahead to two days ago. (*A new piece
of paper.*) This is a statement put out by Arthur Vance—~~

~~PAIGE. (*Sensing where this is going.*) Uh-oh.~~

~~RACHEL. A political consultant who, I believe, works in your office.~~

~~LOUISE. Oh, Arthur, yeah—he's the guy holding my cards.~~

~~RACHEL. This is something Mr. Vance wrote to describe *you*,
Governor.~~

~~ARTHUR. (*Perhaps entirely to himself.*) I will *have her head*.~~

Start

RACHEL. Would you read that for us?

NED. Uh... "Most of us view Government as something we'll never fully understand. Ned Newley is one those people. A Governor who's just like us."

RACHEL. Okay, so, a statement, from your office, describing you as someone who doesn't understand government. Mr. Newley: would you say that's an honest description of the man who wrote all the memos I just showed you?

NED. (*Reading it again.*) "Most of us view Government... as something we'll never fully understand." I'm sorry, I don't mean to ignore your question, Rachel, but I'm realizing... (*To A. C.*) That's what you were saying, A. C.—isn't it.

RACHEL. Um... Governor?

NED. (*Waiting for a response.*) A. C.?

A. C. Uh... yeah, I guess.

NED. (*To RACHEL.*) I'm sorry; A. C. was talking to me about... about how most people don't know what Government is, or what it does.

RACHEL. Wait, did you say... A. C. was talking to you?

NED. Yeah, and I'm just thinking (*To A. C.*) that's sort of the key, isn't it. That you don't know what it *does*. Because *I* know; *I* know what Government does—I know *everything* Government does. I know the budget of every department, I know how much we spent... plow-

ing the highways last winter, and how much we're projecting we'll spend *next* winter.

ARTHUR. What is he doing?

DAVE and PAIGE. (*Both of them amazed:*) He's being Ned.

NED. I know how much *snow* the NOAA—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—is predicting we'll get during ski season— (*To LOUISE:*) 94 inches in Pine Lake, 88 inches at Copper Ridge—

LOUISE. Okay!

NED. (*To A. C.:*) But *you* don't know that, do you? I mean, you're not *supposed* to know that. Your job is to know about that camera you're operating. You could probably take that thing apart and put it back together again.

RACHEL. He *could*, actually.

NED. But you don't know how to plan through the logistics of plowing sixteen hundred miles of roads, do you. Do you, A. C.?

A. C. Uh, no.

NED. And 99 percent of the *rest* of the people in this state don't know how to do that, so the problem is... if all those voters—who know nothing about plowing—elect leaders who are *just like them*... what do we do when it snows?

DAVE. (*Beat.*) God, I love that man.

END

RACHEL. So you're saying... we *shouldn't* elect leaders who are just like us.

NED. That's right, we *shouldn't*. I mean... I should. But Louise—

LOUISE. Hey there! Hi! How're you doing?

NED. I'm... (*Realizing:*) alright, actually.

LOUISE. I think you're doing great.

NED. Louise, do you... do you vote?

LOUISE. Oh no. I'm not a voter. (*To ARTHUR, excited to have found another:*) Hey, that's another thing I'm not!

ARTHUR. Oh god.

NED. And A. C. You don't vote either, do you.

A. C. Uh... no.

NED. And I can't blame you. If you think Government is just a place to send your taxes every April, then... who cares who runs it? But...