

Side #4: Arthur / Ned / Paige

ARTHUR. Here's the thing, Governor. And I've been teaching this lesson for 35 years. When a reporter asks you a question: giving the right answer?; that's hard. Giving the *wrong* answer?; that's *worse*. So the safest path is to not give any answer at all.

NED. You mean... don't speak?

ARTHUR. No, you speak, but you don't answer. Here, allow me to demonstrate. *(He produces four white index cards.)* What I have here are four index cards—numbered one through four. And on each of these cards I've written a simple phrase. *(He hands NED the cards.)* And what I want you to do is: take card number one, and read it out loud.

NED. Okay. *(He finds the card and reads it.)* "It needs fixing."

ARTHUR. Great! Now let's go back to what you were just talking about: Medicare. But this time, when Paige asks you the question, don't *answer* it, just... read that card, alright? Paige?

PAIGE. Governor Newley... what is your position on Medicare?

NED. *(After a slight hesitation:)* It... needs fixing.

ARTHUR. That was great, Governor.

NED. Yeah?

ARTHUR. Great start; let's try another question, okay? Using the same card. Paige?

PAIGE. "Governor. What are your thoughts on the budget deficit?"

NED. *(Beat. Not meaning to hesitate, but fighting the feeling that this can't be right:)* It needs... fixing.

ARTHUR. *(Excited:)* See? Simple! This is a simple man. And for him, every question has a simple answer. And that answer is written on

that card. Any question you are asked can be answered with that card. *Any* question. Do you know what a true leader is?

NED. (*With certainty:*) It needs fixing.

ARTHUR. (*Beat.*) Oh! No—

NED. (*Not wanting to disappoint, he quickly tries again:*) Someone who needs fixing.

ARTHUR. No, no—

NED. Someone who needs a fix.

ARTHUR. Uh... no. Sorry, that was my fault; I meant that as a rhetorical question.

NED. Oh! (*Genuinely, looking at his cards:*) Which card is that?

ARTHUR. No, it's... it isn't... (*Cutting his losses:*) Read card number two.

NED. (*He finds the card and reads:*) "We have to find an outsider."

ARTHUR. *Perfect. Now:* let's try those two cards *together*. First card one, okay? Then card two.

NED. (*The two cards at the ready:*) Alright.

ARTHUR. Governor, what do you think about the public school system?

(*Subtly holds up one finger.*)

NED. It needs fixing.

ARTHUR. Fixing? How do we *fix* it?

(*Two fingers.*)

NED. We have to find an outsider.

ARTHUR. See? Amazing!

NED. (*Surprised:*) Oh! Okay. That's easy.

ARTHUR. *Isn't* it?

NED. Does it matter that I don't know what I'm saying?

DAVE. (*Beat.*) Oh, someone *please* say yes.

ARTHUR. *Of course* it matters.

NED. Okay; what is an outsider?

ARTHUR. An *outsider* is... someone who's not... on the inside. He's someone who... Paige, help me out here.