

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kitchen is small and dimly lit. The Governor is standing behind the center island - hanging pans hide his face.

GOV. MORRIS

It seems you have something you want to talk about.

STEPHEN

Does it seem that way?

GOV. MORRIS

If you have something...or think you have something you want to get off your chest...

STEPHEN

What's say I do the talking and you do the listening.

GOV. MORRIS

Okay.

STEPHEN

As of tomorrow morning there's going to be some changes in your campaign. Paul is out. I will be your senior campaign manager. I'll draft a statement, "we're at a point in the campaign where some changes have to be made etc." You can put your own words in there, you do it better than most.

GOV. MORRIS

And why would I do that?

Beat.

STEPHEN

Because you want to win. Because you broke the only rule in politics. You want to be President, you can start a war, you can lie, you can cheat, you can bankrupt the country, but you can't fuck the interns... they'll get you for that.

GOV. MORRIS

What do you think you have Stephen? A troubled young girl tells you a story.

STEPHEN

A troubled young pregnant girl...

GOV. MORRIS

Is that what she told you?

STEPHEN

... Who needed cash for an abortion.

GOV. MORRIS

What did you do, give her money?
Maybe she just wanted cash and you
were the perfect guy to hit up.

STEPHEN

Is that your best play?

GOV. MORRIS

You need a job that bad Stephen?
You walk in here with your dick in
your hand...you've got nothing.

STEPHEN

So how did I get here? You're
right Mike, there's nothing. No
phone messages, no text, no e-
mails, no photos or tapes, and yet
I'm standing right here.

GOV. MORRIS

Well go home.

STEPHEN

She left a note.

The Governor stands in silence.

GOV. MORRIS

How would you know that?

STEPHEN

I cleaned up your mess. I took her
phone and I found her note.

They stare at each other in silence.

GOV. MORRIS

I thought it was an accident.

Then:

STEPHEN

You tell me, you were the last one
she called. Note says she was
pregnant, said you were going to
pay for her abortion... it also said
she didn't want to hurt you.

GOV. MORRIS

Then why would she leave a note that could do only that?

STEPHEN

Because she's twenty.

GOV. MORRIS

What do you want?

STEPHEN

Paul's gone today. I set a meeting with you and Thompson where you promise him the ticket. You get three hundred and fifty-six pledged delegates, you get North Carolina, and then you take office and make right what so many have made wrong. All the things we both believe in.

GOV. MORRIS

Well I don't believe in extortion... I don't believe in tying myself to you for the next eight years.

STEPHEN

Four years, let's not get ahead of ourselves.

A long beat.

Finally the Governor says:

GOV. MORRIS

What were you doing in her room?

STEPHEN

Housekeeping, before you ended up on page one.

GOV. MORRIS

No. You were already fired, you were out. What were you doing in her room?

STEPHEN

I was fixing a situation... I got a call, someone from the hotel thought I could help and called me.

GOV. MORRIS

You were off the campaign, but you thought it was important to come back and fix things? It was your voice on the phone the other night. You were fucking her. What did you do Stephen?

STEPHEN

I loaned her some money and gave her a ride.

GOV. MORRIS

I bet you did.

Pause.

And then:

GOV. MORRIS (CONT'D)

There's no note.

STEPHEN

Okay, there's no note.

GOV. MORRIS

Show it to me.

STEPHEN

You think I brought it here?
That's how people get hurt.

GOV. MORRIS

Okay let's play this out. You're not wearing a wire because everything you've suggested is illegal... and you wouldn't fare well in federal prison. You were fucking her and she told you about her situation. There are no records or conversations between us. And since she's had an abortion, no DNA evidence. So if there's no note, then it's your word against mine. Your word. A fired, disgruntled, employee, or a sitting governor... There is no note.

STEPHEN

It's your call Governor.

END