

Final Draft 7 Demo

CHURCH AND STATE

by
Phillip Goodwin

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A short political drama.

Final Draft 7 Demo
Draft 2
2.5.10

Philliip Goodwin
350.798.9161
Philmgoodwin@gmail.com

EXT. STATE BUILDING - DAY

CONGRESSMAN WILLIAMS (47) walks down the granite stairs, briefcase in hand. SENATOR REYNOLDS (52) sees him approaching, and meets him in the middle of the stairs.

REYNOLDS
Congressman Williams.

WILLIAMS
Senator Reynolds, good morning.
(a handshake)

REYNOLDS
How's the countdown to election?

WILLIAMS
It's a battlefield. I *think* I still want to be a congressman. What brings you to the capitol?

REYNOLDS
Trouble. The "Evolution Bill".

WILLIAMS
Oooh. That's been ugly.

REYNOLDS
Texas is worried you're not on their side of the issue.

WILLIAMS
You've voted republican for decades. I'm practically the poster boy for intelligent design.

Reynolds raises a copy of the Holy Bible and points it at Williams.

REYNOLDS
True. But you don't believe the Bible.

WILLIAMS
I read the Bible every day, Old and New testaments.

REYNOLDS
"And God said let us create man in our image, after our likeness--"

WILLIAMS
Genesis one twenty six, I know the verse well.

REYNOLDS
But you don't believe it.

WILLIAMS
Andy, I believe God created man and everything else, just as you do.

REYNOLDS
(shaking his head)
Who was he talking to?

WILLIAMS
Who?

REYNOLDS
God, when he said, "let us create man in our image." Who was he creating with?

Reynolds pokes Williams in the chest with the Bible as he speaks. Williams tries to keep his cool.

WILLIAMS
I'm not a Bible scholar, but I believe that God worked in his mysterious ways to--

REYNOLDS
It was Jesus Christ. The Father and the Son created the earth together. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." John one ten--

WILLIAMS
Yeah I've read it.

Reynolds is aiming the Bible at Williams like a pistol.

REYNOLDS
Then how can you say you believe it? It took two gods to create this world, not some shape-shifting trinity.

Williams calmly snatches the Bible from Reynolds hands and flips through it.

WILLIAMS
You're not going to vote for me because I believe trinity?

REYNOLDS
No, it's about your affiliation--

WILLIAMS

(sarcastic)

Cause if it is we should really gather all the legislature together and vote on it, Constantine-style. We could really unify Christianity. "The Trinity Bill".

REYNOLDS

Mr. Governor I'm not upset about your Biblical interpretation, I'm upset that you're a Catholic.

WILLIAMS

(sarcastic)

Now that's good democracy. Church plus state.

REYNOLDS

My voters aren't interested in representing our state with a Catholic priest.

WILLIAMS

If you think painting an election with religion *helps* this country you're more ignorant than the DNC says you are.

REYNOLDS

You expect us to ignore a candidate's religious ties?

WILLIAMS

You know what's the saddest part? Not your diatribe on these stairs. Not that your tiny district is the least of my concerns. Not your damn disgusting bigotry. The saddest part is that you and the rest of the conservative right would rather have an atheist running your government than a fellow Christians.

Williams drops the Bible on the granite stairs. Reynolds stares at it and watches Williams get into a cab.

FADE TO BLACK.