

EASY DOES IT

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. COMMERCIAL SET - DAY

Clean. Corporate. Infinitely wholesome: in a creepy way.

ALLEN (30s) strides confidently into frame.

The human personification of his surroundings, he wears a \$5K suit. A "CAP" (Center for American Professionals) button gleams on his lapel.

As does his immaculately styled hair.

ALLAN

Ladies and gentleman of the political persuasion - welcome one and all to CAP's meet n' greet! My name's Allan, your guide to this weekend's festivities. In conjunction with Fourth Way Democrats, I'm here to help you out with a few talking points you're sure to need when you encounter any of those...

(coughs)

"Progressive" protestors outside.

Allan flashes a "my parents made me wear braces" smile.

ALLAN

Oh, I know. I know. Those purists are soooo annoying. Even a Starbucks Double Mocha Latte isn't enough to drown them out. For now, just lie back and enjoy the complimentary hot stone massage that comes with your VIP ticket. Take a historical journey with me through this video, and I'll teach you the exact talking points to put those far left kooks in their place.

Remote in hand, Allan strides to a large VIDEO DISPLAY.

ALLAN

As I'm sure you all are aware, every IMPORTANT advance in history has been the result of decades of hard won compromise. When it comes to human rights, there's never any need to rush.

Quality inevitably takes time. In other words: incrementalism rules. Here's a few examples you can use the next time some socialist throws a now, now temper tantrum - over realistic change! For starters, let's look what the American Revolution can teach us...

Allan's immaculate manicure twinkles as he presses the remote. CLICK.

INSERT: George Washington - in full uniform - onscreen.

ALLAN

As anyone versed in history knows, if it weren't for intense bipartisan negotiation between the American lobbyists and Great Britain...

He CLICKS again, this time displaying the BOSTON TEA PARTY.

ALLAN

Who knows who would have won?

Production Assistant BARBARA (15) darts onscreen, whispers in his ear. Barbara taps the remote, switching quickly to a KITTY SCREENSAVER.

Ducking low, she rushes off frame.

Leaving Allan to stammer, thrown off-script.

ALLAN

I'm... I guess the American Revolution isn't the ideal example for tonight's review. Not that it's *wrong*, of course. Just: who wants to see guys in wigs - am I right?

Grabbing the remote again, Allan renews his patter.

ALLAN

Let's fast forward to something a bit more current: the Civil War. Ending the horrors of slavery is as forward thinking as one gets!

He toggles to -

INSERT: a wood cutting of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, reading the Emancipation Proclamation.

ALLAN

From the 1500s onwards, the horrific practice of slavery endured for centuries. And let's be realistic. An institution with that much tradition couldn't be ended overnight! Just imagine how disastrous it would have been to rush progress before 1863....

An alarmed Barbara YELPS offscreen. Scurrying into frame, she whispers to Allan again. His ear mike picks some of it up.

BARBARA

12 million slaves were transported to the Americas. Painting that as a good thing is bad strategy...

ALLAN

My point IS, incrementalism worked!

BARBARA

The Civil War wasn't, uh, exactly "incremental". Or "Civil". Pretty fast and brutal, actually.

ALLAN

Who's the Host here - you or me?!?

Barbara glances nervously at the screen.

BARBARA

You're right. Guys, keep rolling. We'll edit out stuff later!

The teen ducks out of frame. Allan beckons the camera into a closeup. Smiles BFF-intimate at the lens.

ALLAN

Folks, please forgive Barbara for the interruption. She's just an intern, and hasn't been here long enough to know her place. Instead, let's move to a historical watershed closer to my heart, and I'm sure yours, as well. Women's rights. As everyone who's taken a Her-story course knows, woman have struggled to be acknowledged as equals for centuries.

Whether it's by commanding the top slot at the CIA, or being CEO to a pharmaceutical powerhouse, it's the power of incremental women-hood that's gotten the job done!

Allan clicks on the remote, displaying:

INSERT: A National Women's Party picket line, before the White House.

Allan beams charismatically.

ALLAN

See? Slow and steady does the trick. Radical change and alienating centrists never works! Which is the message we MUST get across regarding Medicare for All. Granting everyone in the United States the same human right of healthcare enjoyed throughout the rest of the developed world is the worst possible position we at CAP have heard! Responsible Democrats must rip a page - or chapter - from history. Taking a few generations to build consensus is always the wisest move...

Barbara hisses off camera.

BARBARA (O.S.)

Allan, HQ called. They've been watching the video stream.

ALLAN

Lemme guess. They love it?

BARBARA (O.S.)

Not exactly. They "wanna talk."

ALLAN

But - I haven't gotten to how civil discussion was the key to the labor movement and ending Vietnam!

BARBARA (O.S.)

Top orders. End the feed. Now!

The display behind Allan switches abruptly to Desktop View.

INSERT: Revealing a browser tab opened to "A Yoga Dad's Guide to Sexy Vacations."

Barbara reaches out to pull Allan off set. He yanks back, and breaks free...

Smoothing gelled hair, he beams at the lens one last time.

ALLAN

Well, looks like we're out of time.
Everyone, enjoy your complimentary
box wine - but don't drink so much
you miss this evening's seminar:
How to convince your far left
friends Jill Stein is a Putin
Puppet. Followed by: how free
public college helps the 1% more
than the poor!!

Barbara grabs Allan and tugs him out of frame. Too late.

On the monitor, ads for *Bloomberg* and *Yahoo Finance* play.

FINAL FADE OUT: