Pokemon Go to the Polls

Dungeon Master: Anthony Burch

Vice President Freddie Wong​: Freddie Wong

Caleb B. Smith Jr.​: Matt Arnold

President William Campos​: Will Campos

Babs Jetson​: Beth May

[*fast-paced orchestra music starts and fades out*]

**Freddie:** Hey folks, Freddie and Matt and Anthony and Beth and Will here.

**Matt:** Hi.

**Will:** Hello!

**Freddie:** We're doing a little bit of a bonus. For those of you who had been watching on our Twitter, we partnered up with headcount.org to help drive some voter registrations. We set ourselves a nice easy goal of 150 folks. We basically blew by that in a couple of days—real fast—and what we're doing is a little election themed one shot. Anthony, what are we playing tonight?

**Anthony:** So, tonight we are going to play a homebrew campaign in the system called Executive Decision. Executive Decision was designed by a guy named Greg Stolze, [*pronounced differently*] or Stolze. It's called “a white knuckle game of real time political crisis.” It takes exactly an hour to play give or take. Maybe I shouldn't have said exactly, and it's basically meant to sort of simulate being in an Aaron Sorkin high-octane political drama.

**Matt:** I'm already disappointed because I thought we were doing an RPG about the Kurt Russell movie *Executive Decision*.

[*laughter*]

**Matt:** Which was the first rated R movie I ever saw, and I was pretty pumped up for some helicopter blade cutting off some head action.

**Freddie:** I would be Steven Seagal and I would leave 20 minutes in.

**Will:** Freddie beat me to the Steven Seagal joke, ah geez.

[*laughter*]

**Freddie:** Nice. Nice. Nice.

**Anthony:** The episode that we are playing tonight is called Pokémon Go to the Polls. So, to explain the basic premise of this game: As I said, it takes place over 60 minutes. The idea is that all of you—I'm going to play the media, which is not a real thing that exists in the rules, I'm just doing it so that I don't have to play.

**Beth:** Or in the real world. At least not really anyway.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** I'm going to be sort of teaching you about the rules a little bit, and then doing some updates as we go along the game. The basic premise is that all of you are going to be different members of the President's Cabinet, or the President him or herself. Statistically probably himself.

**Will:** Both on the podcast and in real life, unfortunately!

**Matt:** Beth, you're President.

**Beth:** No, I don't really want to be President because I've— Or actually President in this game might be great because I don't need to know a lot.

**Anthony:** President in this game is incredibly important. So the rules of this game: There is no dice rolling, there is no randomness. All it is is trying to convince the President to pick your course of action. Basically 20 minutes into the game, the media is going to present you with four different courses of action related to the political crisis that you're in. Each one of those political courses of action will change basically agendas that the different cabinet members have. So for example, if I'm the Secretary of Defense, I want an agenda that makes the country's investment in military go up.

**Beth:** Yeah, that's what I wanted to do.

**Anthony:** Maybe you can be the Secretary of Defense then, if you got your heart set on that.

**Beth:** I do!

**Anthony:** Okay, great. You're Secretary of Defense.

**Matt:** But doesn't the President get to choose?

**Beth:** Oh. I guess, yeah.

**Will:** To pick his cabinet? I feel like everyone should get to pick their part. I feel lik...

**Anthony:** Everybody gets to be what they want to be, yeah.

**Will:** The President doesn't just get to point to a random person and say, "You're the Secretary of Defense."

**Matt:** That is the rules!

**Anthony:** Pre-2016 the President did not get to point at a random person and say...

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** It's not like I got a bachelor's degree in film and then somebody called me up to the White House like, "Sorry, you've got bigger fish to fry."

**Matt:** We all pick what we want to do, but we're going to vote for who's President amongst us?

**Anthony:** You can, you don't have to. It just says, "Decide which player is President." So if one of you really wants to be President, you can be President.

**Freddie:** I think it's between me and Will. It's between me and Will.

**Will:** Freddie, how are we going to decide who's going to be President, should we rock, paper, scissors?

**Matt:** Well, no. You two have clearly voted for yourself. Hey Beth, so, It's up to us.

**Freddie:** Clearly the way to do it, Will, is to just promise anything and everything to anybody who wants it.

**Will:** As a dynamic, wealthy businessman. I give 100 million dollars to Anthony to run attack ads against Freddie.

[*laughter*]

**Will:** Anthony give me some attacks on Freddie. You're my super PAC now. I've hired you away from DMM, and now you're my flak who does attack ads about Freddie.

[*dramatic piano music plays*]

**Anthony:** Freddie Wong doesn't even know how to play real guitar. What makes you think he can handle a real country?

[*music cuts*]

[*laughter*]

[*music plays again*]

**Anthony:** Will Campos has graduated from college, Freddie can't even get out of a video game high school.

**Will:** Oooh!

[*laughter*[

**Freddie:** Black and white picture of my face.

**Will:** I'm Will Campos and I approve this message.

[*music finishes*]

**Beth:** Freddie, I think, is too susceptible to like, uh...

**Anthony:** Kompromat?

**Freddie:** [*busts out laughing*]

**Beth:** I don't even know what that means.

**Anthony:** Blackmail basically.

**Beth:** Well, I just think that Will... He doesn't need a lot of statistics or whatever, just you got to give him a good argument whereas Freddie...

**Will:** [*chuckling*] So, you think I'll be easier to manipulate? That's what you think.

**Beth:** Yes. [*laughs*]

**Freddie:** That's what it sounds like.

**Matt:** I do feel like Freddie will essentially just decide what he thinks is the right thing to do.

**Freddie:** As a good President should.

**Anthony:** Yes, I think Will can probably be swayed.

**Matt:** I have a question for both of you. What's more important…

**Freddie:** Okay.

**Matt:** Guns or flowers?

**Will:** Freedom. So, guns.

[*laughter*]

**Freddie:** I'm going to answer flowers.

**Matt:** I'm going to vote for Will. I'm voting for Will.

**Freddie:** Wha-?

**Beth:** I'm also voting for Will.

**Freddie:** Agriculture!

**Anthony:** All right. Will, you are President.

**Freddie:** All right. I've lost in a landslide.

**Will:** Freddie, would you like to demand a recount? Do you want to take this to the Supreme Court to challenge the election?

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** I actually Will because I know that he's very pro-life and that's what I'm interested in. This sucks that we're doing this on the podcast. I literally just want to make political jokes all night long, and then like go on Reddit and be like, "Those cucks. SJW cucks."

**Anthony:** All of sudden a bunch of people are sending you links that they want you to click. So, the rest of you have to pick who you're going to be now. Beth, you're going to be Secretary of Defense. Will's going to be President. Matt and Freddie, what are you going to be?

**Will:** Yes.

**Freddie:** I was thinking just like in the pre-Jefferson days, I would be VP.

[*laughter*]

**Will:** Oh, that's good! I like that! Yeah, that's bipartisanship right there. Freddie, welcome to the team. No hard feelings about the dirty campaign I ran against you and all the ways I smeared you in public. I'm glad we can put our differences aside.

**Matt:** I'm going to be the Secretary... the incredibly important Secretary of Interior.

**Beth:** Interior design.

**Matt:** That's what I thought it was.

**Will:** My name is Bobby, from *Queer Eye*.

**Matt:** Caleb B. Smith Jr. Who's the great, great, great, great, great grandson of Caleb B. Smith, who was the Secretary of Interior under Abraham Lincoln.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Will:** I knew it. I knew it. I built a team of rivals, everyone!

**Matt:** B,by the way? His middle name stands for Blood. Straight-up. That's his name, Caleb Blood Smith.

**Anthony:** Is that true?

**Matt:** Yes.

**Anthony:** Whoa.

**Matt:** He died during the Civil War, but I literally can't find how he died.

**Anthony:** Huh.

**Beth:** Maybe he never did. Okay, so I'm going to be the Secretary of Defense and my name is going to be Babs Jetson.

**Freddie:** [*laughing*] Babs Jetson.

**Matt:** Caleb and Babs have some issues with each other.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Will:** Babs Jetson, Caleb Smith, and... Freddie Wong!

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Former Video Game High School teacher Freddie Wong.

**Will:** Former Video Game High School teacher Freddie Wong.

**Anthony:** Back from the dead.

**Will:** Freddie, what's your name? You don't have to be Freddie Wong, you can be someone else.

**Freddie:** Well, you ran the attack ads against Freddie Wong, so that is the brand that I have against the people. I'll be Freddie Wong.

**Will:** I guess I did paint myself into the boxes as Will Campos then as well. Just know that for the purposes of role playing, President Will Campos is an entirely separate and fictional person who does not represent the political beliefs or sincerely held moral values of IRL Will Campos in person.

**Anthony:** Okay. So, the particular cabinet position that you took will have one agenda that basically comes with it. So, Secretary of Defense wants military to do well, Secretary of the Interior wants conservation to do well, the VP wants...

**Freddie:** Tax money, right?

**Anthony:** Yeah, tax revenue. And then you are going to look at the other column and the subsequent page and you are going to pick up to three—but if you want to more—agendas for yourself. The way that agendas work are they are going to be how you win or lose the game. So at the very end of the game, the President—Will—is going to choose one of four courses of action and each course of action is going to make each one of those agendas either move upward, move downward, or stay where they. You're going to give yourself a point for every agenda that you have that moves upward, you're going to take away a point for every agenda you have that moves downward. So you're going to be basically arguing.

**Anthony:** For example, Beth is probably going to want to argue for something military or forceful because that's going to get her a point because she knows that as Secretary of Defense, that's what she cares about. In addition to that, you are then going to write down some predictions for things that might happen during this story. Sorry, so the prediction thing is actually— it's not going to happen in setup. It's going to happen during the game. While they're debating with you, any non-Presidential player can make an assertion and they can say, "I'm making an assertion," and then say that thing, and if it turns out that what they are saying actually comes to pass in the story then they get an additional point for being pressioned.

**Will:** This is so great. The pressure's off for me. I don't have to do anything.

**Beth:** Yeah. No, now I feel way too dumb for this. Like in the story meaning what comes from the news...?

**Anthony:** Sure. Yeah. Basically, the way that this game works—and the reason that I cannot play—is that the major turns of the story that happen outside of the White House— Basically, every game of Executive Decision has one core crisis much like a West Wing episode that everybody in the West Wing is trying to deal with, and the things that change the nature of that crisis happen regardless of your control every 20 minutes. They’re like act break sort of turns.

**Anthony:** Ideally, people playing the game don't know what those turns are. Since I wrote this, I know what all the turns are, and therefore I cannot play. So I as the media will every 20 minutes inform you of a new turn in the story that will potentially influence what you're arguing and what options become available to you and all that kind of stuff. So when you're making assertions you're basically betting on you know what script I wrote essentially.

**Beth:** Okay.

**Matt:** I'm assuming based off of what we decide that decision will essentially have effects on each of the agenda. So if it's like, "The Pokémon are attacking the White House," and we choose a military action, and the military agenda gets a plus one, or whatever?

**Anthony:** Exactly. At the 20 minute mark, you're going to get four different possible options for dealing with the Pokémon in total, and every single one of those options, you have to convince the President to choose one. The President will choose one. When that one goes into effect, every single possible agenda gets affected by that, whether it's up, down or middle essentially, and then you'll count up your points based on how many you have. You do not have to tell each other your agendas other than the one that is public knowledge, and once you're ready, I'll basically start as the media and inform you about what's been going on.

**Beth:** All right. I'm ready for a walk and talk. Except, y’know, on the TV.

**Freddie:** I feel like I need a stand for this, get the proper blood flow.

**Will:** [*sings a West Wing theme-adjacent tune*] I am the Lord thy God, thou shall have no other gods before me.

**Anthony:** Okay, so once I say, "Go," I'm going to start a timer. Again, you have 60 minutes for this game. Every 20 minutes I will stop you and then stop the timer, and then explain what happens. So, I'm the media. This is—

**Will:** This is DMN.

**Anthony:** What's DMN stand for?

**Will:** Daddy Master News!

**Anthony:** Oh!

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

[*short news segment intro plays*]

**Media:** This is DMN, I'm your Daddy Master. All across America small creatures colloquially referred to as “Pokémon” are appearing. Little creatures with incredible powers. Scientists cannot come to a consensus on where these creatures came from, but they've appeared all over the world. They also cannot come to consensus on the degree of sentience that they have. They can speak but some of them can only speak their own names, some of them can't speak at all. But some can seemingly make their own decisions and express basic human intelligence. But it's just too early to know for sure. But let me tell you this, listeners, viewers, whatever. It's not too early for the government to make a decision on what to do with these things because the people—the people that I represent as the media and don't influence at all—are clamoring for a response.

**Media:** A house fire in Scottsdale caused the death of a single mother and second degree burns on her eight year old daughter, and it's said—we have eyewitness reports from this and a lot of contradictory video information—that the fire was started by a little red Pocket Monster known as a Charmander that the little girl brought home. It's an election year. The President's up for reelection, and the voters only have one issue on their mind. They're all asking the same questions, "Was it an accident, or is it intentional?” “Are Pokémon friends, or are they foes?” “Who are they?” “Who's that Pokémon?" Go.

[*laughter*]

[*short news outro plays*]

**President Campos:** All right. I'm glad we could all meet at short notice. I know it's late at night, and we all have places we'd like to be.

**Babs:** Places that we'd like to be? Yeah. Sorry, go ahead.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Babs:** Sorry, sir.

**Freddie:** Sorry, I was just doing some Sorkin-esque dialogue, sir.

**Babs:** Sorry, sir. I was just so excited to be... Go ahead.

**President Campos:** Of course you were, Babs. Welcome to the team. This our big cabinet meeting and I've just been briefed by the war chiefs, or whatever they're called, on the Pokémon threat. And obviously this poor little girl has been torched by a Charmeleon or something to that effect, and I want to know what each one of you think we should do about it.

[*door opening sound effect*]

**Caleb:** Sorry, sir. Sorry I'm late, sir. Do you mind if I sit next to you?

**President Campos:** Of course. Who are you? You're Caleb, right? Yes! I knew your great, great, great, great—

**Caleb:** Yes, Caleb, sir, Secretary of the—

**President Campos:** —great, great grandfather. From the books I read.

**Caleb:** You mind scooting over, VP? Can I sit next to the prez?

**VP:** Yeah, sure. It's fine. So, you're telling me some single mom gets singed over in Scottsdale, what did the military say about these things? What, are they weapons, they foreign, what's the deal?

**President Campos:** That's a good question. Babs, what does the military think?

**Babs:** Oh, what do they say? Oh. Military doesn't really say anything beyond, "Boom! Boom! Boom!" And that's what I think that we should do.

**Caleb:** I like that. I like that. I think we should listen to the military. Let's do it. Let's just blow them up.

**President Campos:** You’re saying we should— But, these creatures seem to be all over the country. So, you're saying we should individually find and drone strike them?

**Babs:** Individually?

**Caleb:** It wasn't here at the beginning. Was it on a National Park?

**President Campos:** You weren’t the—

[*laughter*]

**Caleb:** Did this happen on a National Park?

**VP:** No, this happened in a residential area in Arizona.

**President Campos:** Hold on. Let me just turn on the media real quick to see if this happened in a national park.

[*news tune plays*]

**Media:** [*as if through speakers*] Pokémon are appearing everywhere even in National Parks! but not exclusively there.

[*laughter*]

**President Campos:** Well, we don't know if we can trust this channel. Let me try another channel.

[*shhh noise of a channel changing*]

[*scattered group laughter as it keeps going*]

**Media:** The liberal media wants you to believe that Pokémon are appearing only at National Parks, but I'm here to tell you the truth: *Sometimes* they appear in National Parks.

**President Campos:** Now let me turn it to Bill Maher, see what he has to say.

[*shhh noise of a channel changing*]

**Bill Maher:** Something unfunny and stupid and regressive.

**President Campos:** All right, that's enough of that.

**Beth and Freddie:** [*cracking up*]

**Freddie:** Oh my god!

**Caleb:** You mind if you just leave it on Bill Maher for a bit though, just in the background?

**President Campos:** All right, but I'm putting him on mute.

**Caleb:** Okay.

**Bill Maher:** Transphobic— [*click*]

[*another wave of laughter*]

**Babs:** Wait, what do you mean on National Park? What country do you think you're living in, pal, huh?

**Caleb:** Living in the great United States of America.

**Babs:** Yeah, that means that everything is a National Park if you park your ass in this country. You call yourself an American?

**Caleb:** Babs, you get it. That's what I've been trying to say all along. Mr. Prez, maybe you should listen to this. Everything in America is really a National Park when you think about it. Isn't it crazy that the Secretary of Interior is eighth in the line of succession? When you think about it, I'm responsible for all the land in America?

**Babs:** Well, I was eighth in my class at Harvard, but that doesn't make me a smarty pants, does it, hot shot?

[*group laughter*]

**President Campos:** Back when I was growing up on a farm with my grandpappy and my father and mother, I thought a lot about this great country of ours. And one thing I learned for sure is that America is a place that has values built on freedom and the expression of decency and the ideals of our forefathers, so what I'd like to do is come up with a plan to deal with this threat in an American way.

**VP:** Sir, with all due respect, we don't have time here to listen to long folksy tales and monologues. We got a single mom in the hospital right here. The question is: Are these things dangerous, do we need to be rounding them up? I say we need to get the National Guard in play here and capture them and study them, so we know what kind of threat we're dealing with.

**Babs:** Capture them?

**President Campos:** So, you wish to catch them all? You're a pro-catch them all agenda?

**VP:** If I'm a pro-catch them all agenda then so be it, sir, but I think that it's not worth wasting time here, jacking our jaws over bullshit like the National Parks and how we're going to put them in there.

**Caleb:** Whoa, whoa, whoa.

**Babs:** Let me ask you something, Veep: Do you think that that single mother in Scottsdale, Arizona wishes that you had caught the Pokémon? Or do you think that she wishes that the Pokémon hadn't singed her ass off in the first place? Tell me that, Veep. Tell me what you're thinking.

**VP:** I don't know, Babs. I think that when she's sitting there in the ICU, getting pumped in oxygen, I think the only thing on her mind is wondering what her government is doing about this threat.

**Caleb:** Mr. President, I have an idea.

**President Campos:** I'd love to hear it.

**Caleb:** I never saw the entire movie, but if the first 15 minutes of Jurassic Park tells me anything—

**Anthony:** [*laughs*]

**Caleb:** I think what we should do is take all... Look, two birds with one stone. It's been a while since we've had a National Park that really captured the attention of the world. Now, the other thing we haven't done in a while is claimed any new territory. Imperialism? That's a good way to get your name in the papers, am I right? Get ourselves a new country? Why don't we take something Puerto Rico, or Haiti, or— I don't know, one those countries below us, make that a new National Park, put all the Pokémon over there? They're all safe. They're not hurting any single mothers unless they buy a ticket. Extra tax revenue.

**Babs:** Listen, we already know this thing is deadly. We already know this thing is capable of ha—

**Caleb:** Yeah, so put it in a park. Tigers are deadly! And we got zoos! So get this Pokémon in a big zoo!

**VP:** This is a whole new alien species that showed up everywhere. They're the ones that striked first. It's time to deploy the National Guard into our cities and protect our citizens.

**Babs:** Absolutely.

**Caleb:** You want the National Guard in our cities?

**Babs:** Everywhere.

**Beth:** [*laughs*]

**VP:** Yeah, everywhere.

**Babs:** In our national parks, so everywhere.

**Caleb:** You want martial law because a bunch of animals appeared?

**President Campos:** Excuse me, I am the President and I am talking, and by God, I will be respected in this, my Oval Office, sir!

**Babs:** Yes, Mr. President.

**President Campos:** I have heard all of your points. You are all bold, dynamic, sexy people with interesting, complicated backstories and relationships. Each line of dialogue coming out of your mouths more scintillating than the previous. The show gets better as it goes along and not worse.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**President Campos:** It seems to me that, Mr. Wong, you're in favor of deploying the National Guard, capturing the Pokémon and studying them for scientific use?

**VP:** Yeah, I agree. Yes, that's right.

**President Campos:** And it seems that you, Babs Jetson, my Secretary of Defense want to declare all out war and annihilate the Pokémon threat, whereas you Mr. Caleb, you seem to want to round them up and put them into some sort of Pokémon Zoo in a foreign country and then charge admission.

**Caleb:** I'm halfway there with Babs. Actually, I think me and Babs are saying the same thing—

**President Campos:** Dammit, man! The last thing I need is wishy-washy aides puttering about the place. In the words of William Shakespeare, "Don't tell me a tale full of sound and fury meaning nothing, man."

**Babs:** But also in the words of Shakespeare, "No. Maybe. Not."

**Beth:** [*breaks off giggling*]

**President Campos:** Look deep in your heart, Caleb. I hired you because you were the best in the business.

**Caleb:** I know, dammit! I'm saying—

**President Campos:** You're saying you don't know! Tell me what you know, man! What should we do?

**Caleb:** We use the military, get the Pokémon, put them in a park and then Merkel will stop calling you a boring-ass President because all of a sudden we got a country with the hottest amusement park in the world.

**President Campos:** This meeting is adjourned. Babs, Caleb, get out of my office. I need to consult with the Vice President.

**Babs:** Yes.

**Caleb:** Do you mind if I stay though?

**President Campos:** Get out of my office, damn you!

**Beth:** I saltily turn around on my heel and then I close the door a little harder than it should be closed.

[*sounds of the door and foot steps*]

**Matt:** I walk into the door because Babs closed the door in front of me.

**President Campos:** You have to turn the handle, Caleb, that's how it works.

[*sound effects of foot steps*]

**Beth:** And then I eye a secret service agent up and down with my power suit on, and then my heels clack-clack-clack all down the hallway.

**Matt:** I look back at Freddie and I say—

**Caleb:** Hey, tell Amy I'll bring the chicken tonight.

**Matt:** And I close the door.

[*sound of door closing*]

[*sound of cabinet opening and drinks pouring play over Will*]

**Will:** I somberly walk to the veranda and open up a liquor cabinet, and then I pour out two glasses of scotch and I hand one to Freddie.

**President Campos:** [*sighs*]

**VP:** What's going on William, you seem off your game tonight.

**President Campos:** Fred, how long have we known each other?

**VP:** God. At this point? 13 years not counting Harvard.

**President Campos:** I remember when we started that billion dollar social media company while we were roommates at Harvard. And then we went on to great success and then we had a big falling out, then I brought you back because you're the only man I could trust. Well, right now I need to trust you more than ever. What do you really deep down in your bones think we should do? I know when we were running Google Book—

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**President Campos:** [*does not stumble his speech in the slightest*] —we thought that it was all about capturing information, but at what cost? What did it cost us? It almost cost us our friendship. You don't get to make 500 million friends without making a few enemies along the way, and God knows we've made a couple. So I'm asking you right now: These Pokémon, do you think they're friend or foe?

**VP:** Remember what I told you at that really expensive restaurant in Palo Alto? The scene is a little bit shady. I don't quite remember it.

**President Campos:** That was the place there they were playing the Niagara Falls video, and they said it was a tropical scene and I thought it was ridiculous!

**Will:** I down my scotch.

**VP:** I'm going to give you the same advice that I gave you back then: Drop the The.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Will:** Okay, we cut outside.

**Matt:** I hand a second glass cup to Babs because I have my ear up against the door with a glass cup.

**Beth:** And I hand it back. And then I see another person coming back the other way and I hand them a cup too.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** And then I take whatever paper they're holding.

[*paper sounds*]

**Beth:** I look at the paper, I say—

**Babs:** I needed this yesterday.

[*group laughter*]

**Beth:** Can I make an assertion?

**Anthony:** Oh. No, you can go ahead and make an assertion, Beth.

**Beth:** This is probably too vague to actually matter, but I think that the next thing that will happen is that the Pokémon will provide something that the earth needs or something, like creates more oxygen or whatever. I actually don't know anything about Pokémon except I have a holographic Charmander... at home.

**Freddie:** I would like to make an assertion as well.

**Will:** Just a point of order, are the assertions supposed to be in character, or are they supposed to be game assertions?

**Anthony:** Oh yeah, they should be in character. Yeah. Do them in the scene as the President comes out of the Oval Office.

**Beth:** Okay.

**President Campos:** All right. I've made my decision. I have decided that I am going to...

**Freddie:** And before he does, Freddie mutters under his breath an assertion and the assertion is this:

**VP**: I swear to God if these things become sentient and start asking for rights I don't know what I'm going to do.

**Will:** [*laughs*]

**Anthony:** Okay. Go ahead and write that down on your character sheet.

**Matt:** Now are there Pokémon on all over the world, or just in America?

**Freddie:** All of the world, Matt. Do you not pay attention to the news?

**Matt:** I'm the Secretary of Interior. I don't really care what else is going on.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Beth:** Well, then we shouldn't just be focusing on America. We should be focusing on other countries. Where can we annihilate the Pokémon? Goddammit! I say to myself under my breath—

**Babs**: I'm going to be so pissed off if the Pokémon actually do something good for the world and then I have to cover up that the Pokémon did something good, and then be like, 'Oh, they needed to die anyway.’

**Babs:** Anyways, that's my assertion. I mean, you didn't hear that.

**President Campos:** I didn't it because I'm too scotches deep and I have a condition where my hearing goes the more I drink.

**Babs:** Must be Tuesday, huh President?

**Caleb:** Mr. President, have you seen how cute these darn Pokémon are?

**Babs:** Have you seen how cute my ass is?

**President Campos:** I saw how cute that poor little girl was before she got lit up by that monster.

**Caleb:** I'm just asserting that if we don't put them all in a park, A: We let them run free. People are not going to do anything except for wander around and catch them all day, the productivity of this entire country is going to fall apart.

**Babs:** Well, maybe you can assert your mind instead of asserting your mouth, Caleb, and know and know that we have to—

**Caleb:** Babs, last time I inserted my mouth, you didn't have a problem with it.

[*group laughter*]

**Will:** Oh!

**Freddie:** Now we're in Sorkin land.

**Will:** Now we're Sorkin-in’!

**Babs:** Yeah, but that was before the war.

**Matt:** Caleb mutters to himself—

**Caleb:** That damn war took everything from me.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** He only managed to make it out of the war with the Secretary of the Interior position.

**Beth:** Babs whispers to herself—

**Babs:** Wish I was still fighting it.

[*laughter*]

**President Campos:** All right, that's enough. I've decided. I've looked deep into my soul and into the soul of America, which I became quite familiar with as a combat veteran Navy SEAL.

**Freddie:** Who invented Google Book.

**President Campos:** After working at Google Book, I became a Navy SEAL and I decided—

**Beth:** Like Adam Driver!

**President Campos:** —the best thing we could do... is round up the Pokémon and put them into a park in another country.

**Matt:** I hug the President.

[*laughter*]

**Caleb:** Thank you, sir. I mean [*clears throat*] good decision, sir.

**Anthony:** So, it sounds like you've sort of reached as much debate as you probably do with the information that you have. So if you want to, even though we're only 13 minutes in, we could just jump to the 20 minute...

**Matt:** I mean, we could just try to be funny for seven minutes.

**Anthony:** You want to vamp for seven full minutes?

**Matt:** [*denial sounds*]

**Beth:** Me being funny? I don't need seven minutes. Only need five, hotshot.

**President Campos:** Freddie, I'm going to need you on all the morning shows to pitch the zoo to the American people.

**VP:** You got it. Blue tie or red tie?

**President Campos:** Damn you, man. Gray tie! You know how this works.

**VP:** I'm sorry, sir.

**President Campos:** Babs!

**Babs:** Yes, sir?

**President Campos:** I'm going to need you and the Joint Chiefs to present a mission briefing strategy as to how we're going to capture the Pokémon alive. And not alive like you did with those civilians back in the war.

**VP:** Whoa. Is Babs a war criminal?

**President Campos:** Yeah, that's right. I read the files when I became President.

[*laughter*]

**Babs:** Oh, we didn't know you could read. Sorry. I mean yes sir, Mr. President.

**President Campos:** Caleb.

**Caleb:** Yes.

**President Campos:** In the tradition of your great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather—and I like to see myself as this sort of Lincoln-esque figure, seeing as I also was a father to 12 children like Lincoln.

**Anthony:** I, William Campos.

**President Campos:** You're going to be my most trusted advisor on this. You're going to be my go-to guy. This is your project.

**Caleb:** The second in succession.

**President Campos:** So I need you to come up with a name for the Pokémon park.All right, people, we've got a lot to do for a really amazing and wonderful country that also has dark secrets and tragic things that have happened that we also need to grapple with with clear eyes and purpose in our hearts. Now let's get to it.

**Babs:** Watch out, Caleb. Just like Lincoln, he likes the theater.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** We're 15 minutes now, let's just say the news is five minutes early.

**Babs:** Five minutes early? What is this, my ex-husband?

[*ongoing smatterings of group laughter*]

**Freddie:** [*breaking noise doots*]

**Media:** This is DNM, your voice on the pulse of what things people want. It turns out that after doing a Twitter poll with all of America, there's only four options they're actually comfortable with when dealing with the so-called Pocket Monsters.

[*new music plays in*]

**Beth:** [*laughing*] A twitter poll!

**Media:** They're either okay with: classifying them as pets, number one. Number two, classifying them as legalized fighters that we can tax and go watch. Number three, making them full citizens. Or number four, wiping them out entirely. This comes from just the information you've already had. No new stuff has really happened in the crisis yet. That'll probably happen at 40 minutes, but right around now, that's what the American people are feeling, is it's got to be one of those four options and no others.

[*news outro plays*]

[*ad break*]

**President Campos:** All right, everyone. I've called this, our second cabinet meeting about the Pokémon crisis. It appears that the American citizens do not want to round them up and put them into a big park in another country. Although, I am still curious to hear what the name of that park was going to be, Caleb.

**Caleb:** I'm sorry, sir. We spent a lot of money on the sign and we did have a elite force kind of spreading propaganda in Puerto Rico to try to get them to vote.

[*laughter*]

**President Campos:** You do know that Puerto Rico is part of our country?

[*more laughter*]

**Caleb:** Yeah, I've realized that, but anyways, it was pretty good name. We got a bunch of people on this. “Pokémon See Island.” But it's S-E-E like you see the Pokémon, but you might think they mean sea like S-E-A... So, Pokémon See Island.

**President Campos:** Damn, that sounds great!

**Caleb:** Right? That was pretty good.

**President Campos:** I'm sure the American people would have loved it. But it seems like we've got one of four options. We can either make them pets, we can train them to fight each other for amusement, we can give them full rights as citizens, or we can wipe them off the face of the earth.

**Babs:** Mr. President, when we all voted you into office, we checked a box, did we not? Checked a box saying, "Yes. I, Babs Jetson, am voting for President Will Campos."

[*short laughs*]

**President Campos:** It sounds great every time I hear it.

**Babs:** You know how many sides that box had? You know how many corners that box had? Four. We should pick option four and annihilate them.

[*group laughter*]

**President Campos:** A compelling point, Babs.

**VP:** These Pokémon have already injured an orphan, one citizen. Who's to say that this isn't gonna continue, huh? It's one today, how many by the end of your term? This is going to be a red mark on this administration for as long as you live. It's better safe than sorry. I say we take option four and wipe them out.

**President Campos:** Two votes in front of option four.

**Matt:** I pull out a Pokédex I had my intern print out for me.

**Freddie:** I got this off GameFAQs!

**Will:** [*laughs*]

**Matt:** For the most dog-looking Pokémon there are. I go—

**Caleb:** Sir, I can't help but remember you have a beautiful dog named Roscoe.

**President Campos:** Yes.

**Caleb:** You love dogs, don't you?

**President Campos:** I do. Almost as much and even more than I love America.

**Caleb:** Have you seen these Pokémon? They look a lot like dogs.

**President Campos:** My god.

**Caleb:** Now you wouldn't say that we should kill all dogs just because a few pit bulls have caused a problems.

**President Campos:** No. I ran on that exact kill all dogs message in my first race and I got slaughtered by the competition. That was when I learned that loving dogs is a great look for a political like myself.

**Caleb:** All I'm saying is that so far, there's no evidence that these creatures are any more deadly than the average pit bull, and I think they make beautiful, wonderful pets. I mean, frankly, some of them are just even cuter than dogs, and they talk! It's like you don't have to dream them. I just think they're great. I think people should have them as pets, and then we can open up more parks, Pokémon parks, dog parks, Pokémon parks.

**President Campos:** We're back to the park idea, I see.

**Caleb:** A lot of parks.

**President Campos:** So, you think that the pets could be the first step to the parks?

**Caleb:** Yes.

**President Campos:** So, we're back on the parks?

**Caleb:** Well, I mean, that's kind of my thing, sir.

**President Campos:** Hm… Interesting. Interesting. I have to admit, people, so far the Secretary of the Interior's making the most compelling point, but I'm going to give you all another chance to speak.

[*sounds of lots of short vibrations*]

**Anthony:** So, each of your phones starts to vibrate like that scene in *The Siege* where everybody's phone starts vibrating because there's been an attack, and all of you check Twitter and you see that DMN—

**Freddie:** That's why my phone vibrates, it's because of Twitter.

**Matt:** Twitter vibrate.

**VP:** Breaking tweets! We got some breaking tweets here, guys! We got some trending— Sorry, sir. I set my phone to vibrate on various trending topics, including a lot of sports figures who I follow and some celebrities as well. This may be one of those.

**Caleb:** That's a good way to do it. I have my phone vibrate every hour so I can check the latest hour of tweets. It's been one hour exactly, so let me check through the hour of tweets if you don't mind.

**Babs:** Guys, looks like my Taylor Swift parody tweet is really taken off. I might need to take off the rest of the day and handle this virally.

**VP:** Sir, I'm killing it right now on weird Twitter, I've created a couple of novelty accounts to try and retweet and create memes using the new Department of Memes here, and these things are really taking off, the likes are great.

**President Campos:** Interesting. This weird Twitter seems like it could be an asset to our administration.

**Anthony:** So, DMN posts a video and you see the Daddy Master on the news saying—

**Media:** [*from speakers*] Breaking news! We've just found new camera footage of the fire that took that mother's life and put her daughter in a hospital. Let's go to it now. This may be a little disturbing.

**Anthony:** And you see basically some grainy cellphone footage of the little girl playing with a Charmander. They're hugging each other and everything's really cute, and then in the background in really bad resolution, you can see the mom pouring gasoline on the house and she lights a match, and then the video cuts out.

**Anthony:** He goes—

**Media:** [*from speakers*] It's not worth seeing anything more that's beyond that, but we can now confirm pretty definitively that the mother was the one who started the fire and the Charmander to some extent probably managed to get the girl out. So this is changing all kinds of opinions about Pokémon. Unfortunately, that information coming out now has not been enough to stop a wave of anti-Pokémon sentiment from sweeping across America. People are hitting Pokémon with sticks. Pokémon are defending themselves. The body count is sadly at least at double digits, and at most in double digits. So things are getting a little bit rowdy. That's where people stand with Pokémon now.

**Caleb:** This just reinforces what I've been saying this entire administration, Mr. President. The problem with this country is single moms.

[*group laughter*]

**Babs:** Caleb.

**Caleb:** What's up, Babs?

**Babs:** For once, you and I are in complete agreement.

**Matt:** [*laughs*]

**Freddie:** I text one of my aides to short Petco stock as hard and as fast as possible.

**Anthony:** This is Glenn Close.

[*laughter*]

**President Campos:** My God, this certainly adds a new dynamic into the race. On the one hand, it seems like Pokémon are kind, gentle creatures. Yet on the other, it seems like I could ride this wave of virulent anti-Pokémon sentiment to election by capturing that enthusiasm by declaring war on the Pokémon.

**Babs:** Listen Mr. President, ‘twas beauty that killed the beast, but if we don't act soon, not every mother is going to be able to kill Pokémon and get our message out there. [*trails into laughter*]

**VP:** Sort-of lost that one halfway through there, Babs.

**Babs:** Yeah. At least not the very beginning, veep.

**Caleb:** Babs, I know why you lost that sentence, it’s uh...

**Babs:** You haven't known anything about me since six months ago.

**Caleb:** Babs, don't you remember what day it is?

**Babs:** What?

**Caleb:** Dave. It's the day of his death, your ex-husband.

**Babs:** Oh.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Caleb:** I think about him every day too. It's a rough morning for me too.

**Babs:** We need to kill some Pokémon.

[*laughter*]

**Babs:** For Dave.

**Caleb:** [*Matt laughing*] I think that's what Dave would have wanted.

**Babs:** [*Beth laughing*]This is what Dave would have wanted.

**VP:** [*Freddie laughing*] I mean, he was mauled to death by his underground cockfighting rings.

**Caleb:** [*Matt laughing*]He was mauled to death by his single mom. So I think we should...

**President Campos:** Yes, and ever since the invoking of Dave's Law in my first month of office that's why cockfighting with single mothers has been banned in this country.

**VP:** Finally once and for all.

**Babs:** And people are all for that. We need to go as hard against Pokémon as you did against cockfighting! You need to go hard cock, hard Pokémon.

**Caleb:** If we can make sure that the weapons we use are rather environmentally-friendly and we don't destroy National Parks, I think I'm pretty good with killing all the Pokémon.

**President Campos:** I'm hearing three votes in favor of wiping Pokémon off the face of the Earth, is that what I'm hearing?

**Matt:** Wait, who was the third vote? Is that what Freddie said?

**Babs:** It's what Dave said.

**Matt:** [*laughing*]It's what Dave said. [*keeps laughing*]

**President Campos:** [*completely in character*] We still have a seat at this table for Dave, Secretary of Fun.

[*laughter*]

**President Campos:** He was the fun secretary who made this country fun and things haven't been fun since he died in the war.

**Babs:** In America, everybody is counted. Even when they're not here. Even when they wouldn't have voted for what you want to vote for.

**President Campos:** Some people are counted twice, and that helped us in the primary, am I right?

[*laughter*]

**Babs:** Oh, Dave.

**President Campos:** Freddie, I've got two green lights for wiping Pokémon off the face of the Earth.

**VP:** I said the military options.

**Anthony:** Shit.

**Caleb:** Well Mr. President, your entire cabinet, all three of us. I don't know where the rest of the cabinet is today.

**Beth:** Where are we dropping, boys?

**President Campos:** As someone who won three Nobel Peace Prizes, I feel like it's my duty—as the divinely chosen leader of the free world, anointed by God, who spoke to me and told me to run for President back when I was running Google Book—I've decided that I'm going to listen to my most trusted advisors, all three of you, and together, we will wipe the Pokémon Scourge off the face of the Earth.

**Anthony:** O— Okay. So…

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Even in a game where I have nothing to do as DM, you still somehow managed to contravene my plans. So, within the next... God, in 11 minutes, I was supposed to have the news come up and have all of you feel a wave of psychic energy travel through your head. And you hear the voice, and it sounds a lot like Bill Nye is saying—

**Mewtwo:** [*deep with slight reverb*]This is Mewtwo. I am the leader of the Pokémon—

**Freddie:** Pretty good.

**Mewtwo:** —and we demand manage full civil rights. If you wish to wage war on us, you will be waging a war against yourselves, because some of us don't just have powers of fire and water and earth and other such things, but the power of the mind. And you will know our power should you raise a hand against us.

**Babs:** I'm going to raise a hand to ask a question there, Mewtwo.

[*laughter*]

**Mewtwo:** Yes, what is it?

**Babs:** Why are you entitled to getting full humans civil rights when one of us here just didn't have that until a few decades ago?

**Mewtwo:** That sounds like you problem.

[*group laughter*]

**Will:** That sounds like a Mew problem.

**Mewtwo:** I await your decision, Mr. President.

**Anthony:** That turned into the G-Man.

**Matt:** Wait, just really quick, just gameplay-wise, did we make that decision...?

**Anthony:** Gameplay-wise, basically, at the end of 60 minutes, it's supposed to be the President makes a decision. The game does not say what to do if every single person agrees on the exact same decision and there's no debate whatsoever.

**Will:** Well, now there's a complication because we've seen the awesome power of the Pokémon.

**Matt:** It says the President should probably choose or he can choose his own thing, or whatever.

**Anthony:** Yeah, if the President wants to be a dick, they can choose their own thing, but generally, they go with what the group agrees with, but they didn't say, "Hey, 14 minutes into this 60 minute game, everybody agrees to nuke all the puppies."

**Will:** Well, we've got a good reversal here though, so this is a good—

**Matt:** Yeah, yeah. Okay.

**President Campos:** My God, he entered my mind. The only other time a being has entered my mind and spoke directly to me was when God told me to run for President. So, perhaps these Pokémon are like myselves, agents of the divine Lord above.

**Babs:** I mean, a lot of people have entered me, but nobody read my mind.

[*prolonged group laughter*]

**Will:** It's over. Beth won the episode.

**Beth:** No.

**President Campos:** I'm sorry. I'm sorry, but I don't know if I can commit to this course of action. To declare war on divine beings would be a crusade against God and faith itself. As a religious man and a Rhodes Scholar I must oppose this.

**Babs:** And religion without war doesn't mean tax deductible... churches, my dude.

**Beth:** I had a really good one, but then—

**President Campos:** Religion without war is like marriage without sex.

**Babs:** There you go. There you go, Pres.

**Caleb:** It's what's expected.

**VP:** Listen, I'm not necessarily opposed to citizenship so long as we can increase the tax revenue on these Pokémon, then maybe we could turn these into productive members of our society. A lot of them appear to be beasts of burden. I say this, I say we grant them their requests, but also we tax them hella hard so we can get mad tax revenue.

**Matt:** By the way, I'm definitely the Kellyanne Conway of this group, and I definitely just leak straight to Maggie Haberman that The Vice President called the Pokémon beasts of burden. It's like, "Is the VP a racist?"

**Anthony:** Your brains are immediately filled with Mewtwo going—

**Mewtwo:** Burden, are we? I will show you burden.

[*laughter*]

**VP:** Ah, dang, man.

**Will:** [*laughing*]Mewtwo kills Freddie.

**Caleb:** Man, we got a leak in here. Hey Mr. President, what were the other three options?

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**President Campos:** So, our options were to grant them the rights that they so desperately crave.

**Caleb:** Obviously not.

**President Campos:** Well, why not? That seems like a good thing to do?

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** There's probably a lot more similarity between that and conversations happening right now that we would like to admit.

**Caleb:** What are the other ones?

**President Campos:** To make them pets and to make them fight against each other for their— Damn, man! Don't you have staff to take notes? You should be briefing me on what's going on, not the other way around!

**Caleb:** Why would you bring up my staff member Dave on the day of his death?

**Freddie:** [*cackles*]

**VP:** That's remarkably insensitive, sir.

**Babs:** I'd like to propose a little quid pro quo. Quid pro q, Mewtwo.

**President Campos:** But you're speaking to me, not Mewtwo, I think. Mewtwo, are you still in my head?

**Babs:** Sorry, Mr. President. Sometimes I just speak lyrically for some reason. It's almost like I'm compelled to rhyme, but at the last second, I say something that doesn't... rhyme. I propose that we grant these Pokémon their full rights, et cetera, et cetera, but we force them to enlist in the military. Therefore empowering our defense squadrons. We have a few.

**Anthony:** That’s what they’re called!

**President Campos:** The four squadrons of the military. The navy, the army, the air force and whatever the fourth one is.

**Anthony:** Punch boys.

**Freddie:** The Pokémon.

**Beth:** And the Pokémons are going to be the new...

**President Campos:** And the Pokémon Corp.

**Beth:** Ladies and gentlemen, if you thought army versus navy was exciting, just wait.

**President Campos:** My God, the calendars will be sexy as hell.

[*laughter*]

**Caleb:** Babs, can we just meet in the middle? I think we all wanted to kill them originally. They want rights. I think pets is like the middle ground between those two things, like being killed and having full rights as a human being... being our pets. We all need new pets.

**VP:** Sir, are you familiar with the concept of the French Foreign Legion?

**President Campos:** The French Foreign Legion, I'm familiar, but let's pretend for the sake of argument that I'm not. I want to know if you know what the French Foreign Legion is, Freddie.

**Anthony:** [*laughs*]

**Freddie:** I turn and sort of also be half-addressing the room.

**VP:** Well, the way that the French figured it was they'd take any and all comers so long as you spoke French and you could gain citizenship, doesn't matter where you came from, doesn't even matter what you did in your life so long as you serve with the Foreign Legion for a certain amount of time.

**VP:** I think we can do the same thing with these Pokémon. The fact that they got psychic powers that's beyond anything that we've ever seen, that our scientists have ever encountered before. This could be a powerful weapon, a jewel in America's cap. I say we create a Pokémon Foreign Legion. These Pokémon want rights? They can do so after several years of servitude to our military.

**President Campos:** Honor and fidelity. That's the slogan of the French Foreign Legion, which only I knew because I knew what the French Foreign Legion was at the start of this conversation.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Caleb:** I felt like I was on the same side as Babs, but look, do you know how much money we spend on the Department of Interior in this country?

**Babs:** Too much.

**President Campos:** How much do we spend on the Department of Interior?

**Caleb:** 11.7 billion dollars.

**President Campos:** —billion dollars. That’s not a lot.

**Caleb:** That costs less than the last carrier that fricking Babs got over there. We don't need more Pokémon to be in the military. What are you talking about— We spend more on the military than we do on our pets!

**Babs:** We need more carriers for the Pokémon.

**Freddie:** I text my aides and I write: "Wait, wait. Buy back the Petco stock!"

**President Campos:** Babs is onto something. We could use carriers, small individual, spherical carriers for each of the Pokémon to be deployed tactically at a moment's notice. I'm getting ahead of myself again. Damn.

[*laughter*]

**Babs:** Something like a Poké-grenades.

**President Campos:** A Poké-grenade. A Poké-orb. A Poké...

**VP:** Sphere!

**President Campos:** ...something, we'll figure it out. We'll get the boys at Communications on it. All right, everyone. I'm feeling flustered and morally convicted about my convictions and my religious beliefs...

**Will:** And then I pull out a cigarette and light it up.

**Babs:** That just means you're human, Mr. President.

**President Campos:** I need the room alone for a second.

**Freddie:** I clear out and I say to Caleb on the way out like—

**VP:** Hey, golf tomorrow?

**Caleb:** Yeah.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** I stroll up to the President and take his cigarette out of his mouth, smoke a drag, put it back in his mouth and then I walk out breezily and sexily saying—

**Babs:** Proud to be an American.

**Caleb:** Yeah, if they ever find out that half of the interior budget's spent on municipal golf courses, I'll probably lose this job. So might as well golf all weekend, buddy.

[*door closes*]

**Will:** As my staff commiserates outside the Oval Office, I cast my eyes eye-ward.

[*group laughter*]

**Anthony:** How did he do that?

**Will:** I cast my eyes eye-ward! It's a secret meditation technique only Presidents know to commune with the Lord! And I say—

**President Campos:** Pater noster, qui es in caelis, sanctificetur nomen tuum. Adveniat regnum tuum. Fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo, et in terra. Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie, et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus... expecto patronum, yada yada yada.

**Matt:** [*singing*]A... men.

**Anthony:** The circle in the Oval Office rug begins to like light up with hellfire and flame, a pentagram appears in the middle.

**President Campos:** I'm fine. I was just saying the Lord's Prayer. It was an intimate moment, y’know. It's almost like a cool reference to a scene from the *West Wing*.

**Will:** And then I put the cigarette out and I say—

**President Campos:** Fuck it! We're doing the Pokémon Corp.

**Will:** And I say—

**President Campos:** I'd like an audience with Mew…!

**Mewtwo:** T-two.

**President Campos:** Two!

**Mewtwo:** Yeah, I'm here. Okay. What do you wish of Mewtwo?

**President Campos:** We have a deal to work out. In exchange for full citizens rights, each Pokémon will serve a period of no less than four years in the Pokémon Corp. Which is devoted to American ideals and truth and... justice, and... the ways of Americans, and... a global hegemony run by me.

**Caleb:** We conquer Puerto Rico, sir?

**VP:** We have—

**President Campos:** For the love of God, Puerto Rico is a country and so is Montana. I don't know why you don't know Montana is part of our country. You're the Secretary of the Interior, damn you!

**Anthony:** So, Mewtwo responds within your mind and just yours, I guess.

**Mewtwo:** Would you make a Foreign Legion solely of people with brown hair or a Foreign Legion solely of people with a certain belief? If you were to make us citizens and to make us fight your wars for you, then you must make sure that every American must also fight in these wars. For when we ask for citizenship, that is to be treated the same as any other citizen and separate is not equal. You must give us a different— If you're going to do this whole fucking thing, then either don't make us fight wars or make everybody fight your wars. We want full equality with your citizens. No deal.

**President Campos:** I want the same thing as you, Mewtwo. I want full equality for Pokémon as well, and I believe deep in my heart that that is the right thing to do, but let me tell you about the most American of values called incrementalism.

[*group laughter*]

**President Campos:** The Grand Canyon, our most mighty of canyons, was not formed in a day. It took years and years and years of long, pointless, tedious, meaningless progress before it became a resource that the country could exploit to its fullest.

**Mewtwo:** You wish to exploit us?

**President Campos:** I'm just saying that the wheels of democracy turn very, very slowly, and very often in the wrong direction, but sometimes then they go in the right direction for a couple of years and they swerve into the wrong direction again. And that is my promise to you, the Pokémon, that eventually things might get better, or then they will get worse sometimes, but in the end, we are Americans.

**Mewtwo:** That's a great sell there.

[*distant slow clapping*]

**Freddie:** [*laughs*] The slow clap starts!

**President Campos:** As you can see by the slow clap from my staff, this is a very good and important speech I'm making.

**Caleb:** Sir, just tell them it's either that, or they're going to be pets. Those are the two options. Play hardball, sir. You came to me, while I was chopping wood, and I said, “I was done since the war,” and you said—

**Anthony:** Are you a hitman?!

**Caleb:** "I need you in the Department of Interior, the most important of all the cabinets."

**President Campos:** I just said that to get you to stop chopping down our national forests.

[*group laughter*]

**Caleb:** And I said, "Sir, the only reason I'll do it is because the only thing I love watching more than baseball is you playing hardball.” So goddammit, I want to see you play hardball.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** As you're all making this discussion, you hear a knock on the door and your assistant, I guess, opens the door.

[*sounds of knocks on the door and it clicks open*]

**Caleb:** Making this discussion is what I call sex.

**Anthony:** There's a knock on the door and your assistant goes—

**Assistant:** Mr. President, your daughter's here to see you.

**President Campos:** My daughter. Send her in at once.

**Anthony:** And a small girl, she's like 16. Yeah, she's 16 and she goes—

**Daughter:** Dad, I know you've been having a lot of really, really, difficult conversations about all this stuff, but I just... While that's going on, I didn't want to lose the opportunity to introduce you to my boyfriend.

**Anthony:** And then the door opens wider and you see Mew standing there.

**President Campos:** [*gasps*]

**Anthony:** Wearing a suit with a bow tie.

**Freddie:** Floating there, right? Floating.

**Anthony:** Yeah, he's floating. Sorry, Mew's floating there with a bow tie. Your daughter has a corsage on her hand, or whatever.

**Freddie:** It's prom? Mew's taking her to prom?

**Anthony:** Yeah, Mew's taking her to prom, and, uh... I guess we cut to commercial?

[*group laughter*]

**Babs:** Mr. President, I'm really happy for your daughter. Really happy that she's found somebody that she loves.

**Daughter:** Well, I didn't...

[*laughter*]

**Babs:** Maybe she'll use this to sort of sway your mind, say like, "Oh. Hey, if my daughter loves this new person then maybe all Pokémon are good, and maybe we should give them rights and not have them fight our wars, or whatever," but let me remind you that your daughter is 16 years old. And you know what I was doing at 16? I was in love, too. With a man named Randy who left me at a donut shop in the donut.

**President Campos:** Was it Randy's Donuts?

**Freddie:** It was Randy's Donuts. It was his donut shop.

**Beth:** [*laughing*] It was Randy’s Donuts.

**Anthony:** He clearly did very well for himself. He was right to dump you.

[*laughter*]

**Will:** He said, "Someday I'm going to run on this donut shop, and I didn't listen-"

**Anthony:** It just used to be called Donut. There was no name associated with it.

[*group laughter*]

**Caleb:** Wait. Wait, your daughter is 16?

**President Campos:** Yes. Remember, I have 12 children, but she's my one daughter. The rest are boys.

**Matt:** My eyes look out at the distance and I flashback to 16 years and nine months ago.

[*loud group laughing*]

**Matt:** When I was on leave, and I go—

**Caleb:** 16.

[*dramatic music startsI]*

**Matt:** I remember the now First Lady coming to me upset that she thought the President of the United States, her husband, had died in the war. And for that one cold lonely night.

[*music stops*]

**Matt:** I shake it off, I go—

**Caleb:** Oh, anyways I forgot she was 16. Did I just miss her birthday? I should probably get her a present.

**Anthony:** So the President's daughter goes—

**Daughter:** Oh, sorry. I was just drinking some melk.

[*all laughing*]

**Daughter:** Does anybody want any melk and cookies?

**Caleb:** Wait, wait. Say that— say that again?

**Daughter:** You want some milk and cookies? Anybody?

**President Campos:** Why do you say melk like that? Damn, now you've got me doing it. 12 years of speech classes and you still say melk.

**Daughter:** All I want to ask is in relation to me and my boyfriend. Do you think it will work?

[*long group laughing*]

**Beth:** Babs looks at the President's daughter, and then she flashbacks to—

[*dramatic music starts*]

**Beth:** —16 and no months ago when she gave a baby up for adoption.

[*everyone laughing*]

**Beth:** My husband Dave had just died. There was only one man who cou— [*breaks off into laughter*]

[*music stops*]

**Freddie:** Oh, my God.

**Caleb:** Honey— I mean, what's your daughter's name?

**Will:** Her name is, uh…

**Matt:** [*laughing*] You don’t even know your daughter’s name?

**Beth:** Her name is Amy.

**Anthony:** Her name is Amy. Your daughter says—

**Amy:** Wow, dad. Are you the US government because I think we need to separate these powers.

**Beth:** Oh, my God.

**Caleb:** Don't be hard on your dad. Some dads don't even know they have children.

[*laughter*]

**Caleb:** They're just trying really hard. Don't be so hard on your dad. Anyways, I think you two should just have a good night at prom.

**Matt:** I give her $20 and I walk away awkwardly.

**Freddie:** $20, huh?

**Anthony:** She leaves, saying—

**Amy:** That's how I want to go.

[*door closes*]

**President Campos:** Well, this has been a shocking turn of events.

[*people still giggling*]

**Anthony:** Whenever you want to you can make a final decision on what happens and we will tally up the scores.

**President Campos:** Before I make my final decision I need you all to leave the room so I can consult one last person.

[*laughter*]

**Babs:** Is it going to be God again, sir?

**President Campos:** It's not going to be God again.

**Babs:** Okay.

**Caleb:** Can we just listen? We all kind of have a bet on what you're doing here when you ask us to leave, we'd really like to see it.

**President Campos:** Then here is what we shall do. We're going to call on Dave.

**Will:** I take some candles down and I set them in the middle of the big table in the Oval Office, and I say—

**President Campos:** You all know how it works. We all hold hands and we say, 'Dave, Dave, tell us what to do. Come and save us, Dave.' Then Dave speaks through our voices one word at a time in a circle and divines his judgment. Just to make sure things are fair, I'll turn on the TV and tap the TV so that Bill Maher can say one of the words too.

**Matt:** Now I remember why we all hated Dave so much.

**Will:** All right. I dim the lights and we all sit down and hold hands, and Freddie and I touch the TV, and Bill Maher on the TV looks around and goes, "Ugh," and then his eyes roll back in his head.

**Matt:** The moment I grab Babs' hand, I kind of get a little shiver. I look at her and like—

**Caleb:** This brings me back, doesn't it? Why am I asking you if this brings me back?

**Babs:** I don't know.

**Will:** [*laughing, barely breathing*]This brings me back, doesn't it?

**Babs:** I don't know.

**Will:** [*loud laughter*]

**Freddie:** [*quietly*] The fuck does that even mean?

**Anthony:** Doesn't this bring me back?

**Will:** Okay, and I flick the lights seven times and I say—

[*seven clicks of a light switch*]

**Babs:** We're supposed to be speaking with Dave, but for some reason, Caleb, I only want to talk to you.

**Caleb:** [*Matt laughing*]I know the feeling. You're the only person I want to talk to, too.

**President Campos:** Save some room for Dave's spirit you two, damn.

**Will:** I say—

**President Campos:** Dave, Dave, tell us what to do. Dave, Dave, you know what to do. Dave, Dave...

**Babs:** Scooby Dooby Doo.

**President Campos:** Scooby Dooby Doo.

**Matt:** I flashback to… [*laughs*]

[*dramatic music starts*]

**Will:** You flashback to what, Matt?

**Matt:** I flashback to 16 years and nine months ago when the First Lady politely rejects me and then Babs comes wandering in drunk. And then we flash forward to nine months later. I go—

**Caleb:** You gave our child up to adoption?

[*group laughter*]

**Caleb:** Who took it?

**Matt:** And she goes, "We'll never know." We flash to the hospital—

**Anthony:** Daughter opens the door really quickly, goes—

**Amy:** I wrote a play. Does anyone want to read my play while you drink some melk?

[*all laughing*]

**Beth:** I say—

**Babs:** Dammit Caleb. I gave her up. Nobody takes anything from me.

**Caleb:** Dammit. This why I've always loved you.

[*music stops*]

**Will:** Okay.

**Caleb:** Dave, Dave. What were you saying?

**President Campos:** Dave, Dave, save me and you.

**Will:** And then we all close our eyes.

**VP:** Hey.

**Bill Maher:** Me.

**President Campos:** It's.

**Caleb:** The.

**Babs:** Best.

**VP:** Friend.

**President Campos:** Slash.

**Bill Maher:** Lover.

**Caleb:** That.

**Babs:** Babs.

**VP:** And.

**President Campos:** The President.

**Bill Maher:** Have.

**Caleb:** Ever.

**Babs:** Fu— [*wheezes into laughter*]

[*quiet laugh-wheezes*]

**Babs:** Let the record state that I said the F word.

[*all laughing*]

**VP:** So.

**President Campos:** You.

**Bill Maher:** Must.

**Caleb:** Kill.

**Babs:** All.

**VP:** Hope.

**President Campos:** In.

**Bill Maher:** America.

[*laughter*]

**Caleb:** But.

**Babs:** Not.

**VP:** For.

**President Campos:** Any.

**Bill Maher:** Good.

**Caleb:** Reason.

[*group laughter*]

**Will:** Suddenly, the lights explode—

[*electric crackle*]

**Will:** —and we're plunged into darkness.

[*beat of laughter, laughs keep going*]

**Caleb:** Sir, he wasn't much of a help at all.

**President Campos:** I forgot that Dave went to a very dark place right before he died. If I remember correctly, he was suspecting that Babs and Caleb had feelings for each other.

**Caleb:** He never knew— I mean that would never happen.

**President Campos:** Something do about him not being able to conceive a child. I don't know what though. I don't know what it has to do with my daughter.

**Babs:** If he was in such a dark place then doesn't that make sense he was still... in the dark?

**President Campos:** That's true. That's a very good point.

[*laughter finally calms down*]

**President Campos:** So, Dave is for killing all hope in America for no reason.

[*laughter again*]

**President Campos:** The rest of you seem to be in favor of dragooning the Pokémon into a military surface, which was not one of the options presented to us.

**Caleb:** I said they should be pets.

**VP:** That sounds like pets. That's the closest we got. That's pets.

**President Campos:** That sounds like pets. That's like a combination of options one and two because it's pets that are fighters. They're pet fighters.

**Babs:** Mr. President. Mr. President, when Dave was alive, I didn't share my soul with him. Y’know there’s a... there's an old story that I heard once that somebody told me that was about lovers and then at the end of the story something weird happens. And then I think that that applies to this situation. I should have respected him more in life, but now... he's dead... and we should still do hopeless things, sir.

**VP:** So, the military option is what you're saying?

**Babs:** The military, yes.

**President Campos:** All right. So, you want to wipe out the Pokémon?

**Babs:** Yes.

**Anthony:** The time is now. The President must make the decision. What is it going to be?

**Will:** I have four buttons on my desk that are all weirdly specific.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** It's a good thing these were pre-installed.

**Matt:** A, B, C, and D. All decisions eventually get to you in a A, B, C, or D option.

**Freddie:** Just like *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*.

**President Campos:** Freddie, my closest friend and longtime business partner, the only person to know that this entire time I've been secretly battling a life-threatening scurvy disease and illness.

**VP:** Did you not get the gift basket? We've been sending gift baskets. There's oranges in them. Just have the oranges for God’s sake.

**President Campos:** Oranges can't help me now. My scurvy is too far gone.

**VP:** No, that's... No. All the doctor, empirically—

**President Campos:** I'm not into your homeopathic remedies. I believe in science, man!

**Anthony:** Do not let scurvy control you.

**Babs:** Mr. President, will you read out the options A, B, C and D?

**President Campos:** Option A, turn them into pets. Option B, turn them into fighters. Option C, make them full citizens, or option D, kill them all.

**Babs:** Mr. President, I think that you should make like your GPA and pick D.

**President Campos:** I feel like I kind of walked into that job. [*sighs*] Dave wants me to wipe out all hope, and Dave—

**Babs:** Starts with D?

**President Campos:** Which is a weird position for the Secretary of Fun to have.

[*laughter*]

**Freddie:** [*laughing*] Secretary of Fun really lost his— lost his way!

**President Campos:** So ironic an appointment if you think about it.

**Caleb:** Well, remember,he was also my intern. That's just what we called him to make him feel important.

**President Campos:** That's maybe why he had such a dim view of the world. [*sighs*] It gives me no pleasure to say this... but I believe the only way to wipe out all hope in America is to make the Pokémon... full citizens of the United States.

**Matt:** No!

**Will:** And I slam the full citizens button, and I say—

[*presidential-esque music starts*]

**President Campos:** The only thing America hates more than itself is other people that are equal to itself, and with yet another group of citizens in America, this country shall tear itself to shreds. We have proven so many times over and over again that our differences cannot be overcome by coming together as Americans. We all hate each other, and... I feel like the Pokémon will kind of spice that up and speed that along.

[*music stops*]

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Mr. President, we have a letter here from an eighth grader.

[*all laughing*]

**Anthony:** All right. So

**Matt:** That's good.

**Anthony:** Time to tally up the scores. So I'm going to go through every possible agenda, and then if it's on your sheet... In Freddies' case, you get a point for your correct assertion.

**Freddie:** Yes!

**Anthony:** Everybody else, you're just going to tally up plus or minus values depending on whether I say up, down, or nil. So, Conservation goes up. If you had Conservation, give yourself a point.

**Matt:** Whoo!

**Anthony:** Development goes up. Military goes down. Minus one if you have Military. Voter satisfaction goes down. Health is not affected. Centrism goes down. A Balanced Budget goes down. International Prestige goes up. And Tax Revenue goes up. So now, what are everyone's final scores?

**Freddie:** I am at +3.

**Beth:** I'm 0.

**Matt:** I'm at +3 as well.

**Will:** A tie!

**Beth:** Shit.

**Will:** Who casts the tie vote, the Vice President?

**Matt:** Mr. President.

**Anthony:** I think so.

**Will:** The President chooses who wins. Hmm... you know what?

**Anthony:** Yeah. Do a scene together, the three of you.

**President Campos:** Ha ha ha!

**Will:** It's all of us smoking scotch...

[*laughter*]

**Freddie:** Smoking scotch? Yup, yup, yup.

**Will:** We're all freebasing scotch and eating cigars.

**Matt:** Now that Babs is gone, let's let our hair down and let's talk like men.

**Beth:** The camera pans to a trashcan next to them, which has one of my stilettos leaf plantar fasciitis pad in the heel is on fire and it's lighting the entire office on fire while they're all outside smoking.

**Matt:** We all die. I had Conservation and Development and International Prestige, but then I also had Military, so -1 on that.

**Freddie:** So, I had Military, Conservation, International Prestige and Taxes because that's built into me.

**President Campos:** Do you guys all talk about your special interests as if they're points that sway all of your decisions because that's how I like to think about it, too.

**VP:** Yeah, makes things a lot easier and clears it up. Gamifies it in a nice clean, simple way.

**Anthony:** So, who does the President want to win?

**President Campos:** Well, the President has decided at the end of the day, America's the real winner, so you're both winners. Ha ha ha ha ha!

**Will:** And then I chug my scotch, and I jump off the roof of the White House.

[*laughter*]

**Will:** I fly away because I was a Ditto the whole time and I turn into Butterfree!

[*sparkly sound effects*]

**Freddie:** Woah!

**Will:** And I fly away...

**Freddie:** We all start crying because you fly away and you're Butterfree.

**Will:** Yeah.

**Beth:** Four more years. Four more years.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Guys, I'm just hoping that November 3rd will go just like this.

**Anthony:** I would love that.

**Anthony:** So, that's kind of Executive Decision? We messed with the rules a lot as we tend to, but I don't know. If you enjoy, you can find it I think on DriveThruRPG.

**Beth:** Wait, is it November 3rd or November 4th?

**Matt:** 3rd.

**Beth:** 3rd, yeah. If we don't want to give anybody the wrong information.

**Will:** Oh, geez. God Almighty.

**Matt:** Go vote on November 3rd.

**Beth:** Literally, go vote.

**Matt:** Go vote now.

**Beth:** This is my serious Beth voice. Go vote. Please go vote.

**Freddie:** Voting time, everybody.

**Will:** And vote for... y’know!

**Anthony:** Yeah, I mean...

**Beth:** And vote uhm...

**Will:** You know!

**Beth:** Vote good!

**Anthony:** Not everything has to be a really difficult decision. Some things are not so difficult.

**Beth:** Yeah!

**Matt:** Vote good!

**Beth:** Yeah!

**Freddie:** Get yourself to the polls. Thank you to headcount.org for getting these folks registered, and thank you to Greg Stolze for his game Executive Decision. We'll see everybody later.

**Will:** Bye.

**President Campos:** [*as if through tv speakers*]This is your President saying, "Goodnight and God bless Poké-America." That's what we're calling it now.

[*God Bless American outro plays*]

**Mewtwo:** That sounds like a you problem.