

= Full Disclosure (The West Wing) =

" Full Disclosure " is the fifteenth episode of The West Wing 's fifth season , and episode 103 from the start . It originally aired on NBC February 25 , 2004 . Events circle around a potentially inciting magazine interview with former Vice President John Hoynes . Written by Lawrence O 'Donnell , Jr. and directed by Lesli Linka Glatter , the episode contains a guest appearance by James Pickens Jr . " Full Disclosure " is notable for prompting a real @-@ life letter from Senator Hillary Clinton .

= = Plot = =

Doing another appearance on Taylor Reid 's news show , C.J. gets blind @-@ sided with news about resigned Vice President John Hoynes . A New York Times interview leaked on the internet has him claiming the President and Leo asked him to stay once the sex scandal broke (which , as seen on Life on Mars , is true) . C.J. manages to get a copy of the interview , and it becomes clear that he is trying to portray his former boss and the Chief of Staff in a bad light . When it also emerges that he is writing a book (titled " Full Disclosure ") , the White House staff suspect he is planning a presidential run , and that his tactics will involve a smear campaign against the current administration , to distance himself and thereby appear in a better light . As a pre @-@ emptive response , they draw up a long and detailed list of Hoynes ' worst policy blunders from his time in office , to use if he should decide to campaign at their expense .

C.J. , however , seems more than reasonably distressed by the whole incident . She pays Hoynes a visit to give him a warning , and it becomes clear that she was one of the women with whom the Vice President had an affair . She makes it clear to him that , should he attempt smear tactics against any of these women , she will fight him on it , and he says he had no plans to include information about her in his book . C.J. later sadly relates to Toby how deeply she regretted sleeping with Hoynes . Distressed and in need of comfort , she decides to finally call her college boyfriend Ben , who has been trying to get in touch with her (and been ignored or shunted aside) for quite a while .

In parallel storylines , Toby has a meeting with union leaders concerned about cheap imports from China ? in particular bras . Imposing trade restrictions , however , could be damaging to the US auto industry . Josh has a meeting with the Base Closing Commission . Deciding which military bases to keep and which to shut down is not only politically hazardous , but a job he finds extremely boring . Leaving the room , he comes back to find his intern Ryan in the act of pulling a confidence trick to get a power Congressman 's favor regarding a base in his district , without his approval . He tells Ryan to clean out his desk but the intern seems to think Josh is kidding in order to throw the Congressman off the track of their " secret plan " . When the democratic Mayor of D.C. (Pickens) comes out in favour of a pilot school vouchers programme , everybody is surprised , but after taking advice from Charlie about his assistant 's own public school experiences in the city , the president agrees to support the plan .

= = Social and cultural references = =

Writer Lawrence O 'Donnell , Jr. is a former Washington insider , and the episode carries many references to contemporary political themes . The web site in question , bringing the leak about Hoynes , is the real @-@ life Drudge Report , a political site that made its fame during the Lewinsky scandal . " The West Wing " had on several occasions been in contact with Matt Drudge , the operator of the site , for permission to use its logo on the series , but been turned down . When the site was used without Drudge 's permission , he reportedly reacted with anger . The timing of the episode , however , was fortuitous , in that it coincided with the much @-@ publicised Drudge story about presidential candidate John Kerry 's alleged affair with a journalist .

The Democratic Washington mayor coming out in favor for a pilot program of school vouchers , could be based on Mayor Anthony A. Williams , who broke ranks with his party to support a similar scheme by congressional Republicans .

Perhaps the most peculiar fact associated with the episode was a letter by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Representative John M. McHugh addressed to show character Josh Lyman , concerning the closing of an upstate New York army base . Josh points out that the deep @-@ snow training base of Fort Drum is relatively useless in a time when most wars take place in desert terrain . Clinton and McHugh wrote a tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek response pointing out flaws in Lyman ? s reasoning .