

SPEAKER LANCING

HAE

The Opposing Party Leader

What can you do when the chief opposition to all your ambitions is the President of the United States? More than you'd think, it turns out.

Throughout your entire career, President Carroll was your chief rival. You were a brilliant student in college with a bright future ahead of you, and everyone knew that you were destined for great responsibility and high achievement. But suddenly after graduation, it seemed that everywhere you turned, you found your every effort and endeavor put you in direct competition with this hotshot kid named Carroll. You attended the same law school, where no matter how hard you tried your GPA was always just a few points lower. After passing the bar exam, the two of you competed for judicial clerkships with you always managing to lose out on the more prestigious posts. Always, always, Carroll was just a little bit ahead of you.

It didn't end even once you finally entered the political arena. As you rose through the ranks of executive government, you encountered Carroll at every level, across you in the House, against you in the Senate, and of course representing the opposite political party. Any time either of you made a motion or raised an issue it was a battle of epic proportions. You made quite a name for yourself through your impassioned, tenacious pursuit of your agenda, and before long your service to your party made them chose you as Minority Leader. When your side became the majority, you were conferred with the honor of Speaker of the House. Your victory felt brief, however. Carroll eclipsed you yet again by shortly thereafter announcing an intention to run for President of the United States. Despite your best efforts to prevent it, Carroll assumed office with a decisive victory of fifty-five percent of the vote.

As Speaker, you have dedicated yourself to opposing any and all policy this presidency puts forward. Your bitterness at being continually overshadowed makes you determined to prove to the world that that their confidence has been misplaced. You have been digging for something, anything, that you can use to discredit the administration. You have finally found it in the form of Project Resonance, the new secret military science scheme that Carroll has endorsed.

The project seems to be about engineering a retrovirus with the capability of neutralizing violent individuals in a riot situation. There also seemed to be something about autism treatment applications as well. The project appeared to be meeting with general success, but there were also a number of risk factors that had potentially dangerous side effects. Better yet, many of them seemed to have never been totally addressed, or even left out of the status reports. With some careful management, you can play up all these negative features, as well as the secrecy with which they were being experimented. You could spin this as a dangerously irresponsible misuse of science endorsed by Carroll that was concealed from the scrutiny of the American public— perhaps even present things as an elaborate cover-up by the Carroll administration. If you use this information carefully, you can finally discredit your rival such that Carroll may never hold powerful office again. After all, as Speaker of the House, you are fairly far up the line of presidential succession...

Who You Know:

President Carroll - Your chief rival, one whom you've never quite been able to match. But perhaps if you can use the handling of this Resonance project, you can finally do enough discredit to put yourself on top.

Representative Harlan - Though a member of your party, you never got on with Harlan, who was always obstinate and entrenched in opinion. But since you started speaking out against Project Resonance, Harlan's discomfort with it earned you an unexpected ally.

Senator Shields - Shields was a supporter of yours during your bid to keep Carroll out of the presidential race. You didn't always see eye to eye, but the senator found you preferable to the financially loose policies of Carroll.

Secretary Stevenson - The secretary of agriculture, a loudmouthed cowboy with no prudence or tact. Still, the secretary opposes Resonance, and it may be useful to have an opponent to it in Carroll's own cabinet.

Secretary Stern - The secretary of homeland security sees terrorists lurking around every corner. It's paranoia like that making people fall for insane schemes like Project Resonance in a desperate search for national safety.