

SECRETARY MOORLAND

HBE

Secretary of Health and Human Services

People want the government to do everything for them. They just don't understand that you have to do the best you can with the limited time, resources, and manpower you have. As Secretary of Health and Human Services, you need understand that to do your job. You rose to the position because your superiors recognized the value of your skills in accomplishing as much as you can with the budget you've got and how to prioritize the nation's truly important needs when there just isn't enough to take care of everything. There are so many sob stories out there; it takes a lot of discernment and immunity to false sentimentality to make sound decisions. You are one of the few clear-eyed enough to do it, and you've made yourself indispensable to the current administration.

Normally you have an excellent sense of whom you need to consider and whom you can safely ignore, but a recent decision of yours has proved more disastrous than you could have predicted. You were in the midst of a severe budget crunch, so some programs simply had to go. You finally settled on axing some initiative to bring adequate special education to schools in need in order to make up the last of the budget. Of course some people would be offended, but you knew from experience that as long as you did it quietly there wouldn't be enough backlash to make a difference. So you went about things as you always did, and didn't think twice.

That is, you didn't think twice until you saw your name and news of the program you cut splashed across the national paper. Some anonymous source had leaked the details of your decision to the press. Even then, you might have remained mostly unscathed, except that they repeated something you'd said during the meeting. You could have just left it at the nature of budget cuts, but you had to have said, "Besides, it's not like the retards know what they're missing anyway."

You don't know who exposed you, but once that quotation hit the papers, you were every activist's favorite target for discrimination against the mentally disabled. Some people were talking about looking into your previous decisions and operating methods, while others were calling for your removal from the position of Secretary. It seemed like your reputation was on the verge of being totally ruined, but you cannot allow yourself to lose your office and your good standing.

Then you heard of Project Resonance, a very promising scientific endeavor engineering a cure for Braiden's Syndrome. This was just what you needed to repair the situation. You decided immediately to divert a huge amount of money toward the research and do everything you could to associate yourself with the project. The general public didn't know the difference between mental retardation and Braiden's anyway; they would only see it as evidence that you cared about the mentally disabled. You could even possibly explain your earlier actions as an effort to bring the cure out as soon as possible. If Resonance was as successful as it promised to be, you could not only save your reputation but possibly even come out looking like a hero, with more foresight than any of your detractors could have guessed.

WHO YOU KNOW:

Secretary Highmore - The Secretary of Defense plays the long game. You're not always sure what Highmore intends with any given action, because chances are there's some ulterior motive that won't immediately become clear.

Secretary Stern - The Secretary of Homeland Security. Watching out for the country is important, but Stern just fuels everyone's paranoia, making everyone obsessed with the possible terrorist threat.

Secretary Gutierrez - The Secretary of State. You're often frustrated dealing with this idealist. Gutierrez doesn't always understand that the harsh realities of a situation might make certain high-minded efforts flatly impossible.

Deputy Thatcher - One of the few practical minds you deal with. Currently working for the DoD, you've

had Thatcher on staff in the past. You can count on Thatcher balance a budget and cut through the bullshit.