

Red Titles: Already Filmed
Blue Titles: Brand New Narration Scenes
Green Titles: Narration has been added to older scenes

Script Used for the Production of:

***CRUDE
CONQUEST:
The Triumph of the Texas Oil Industry
1936 - 1980***

A film by Honors Northeast

Scene 1 : The Theme

EXT. Black-screen. Continuous. Development of Opening Film Overture by Kenny Goodson, with the one smokestack film, minus the signs, on a loop. The Text appearing in white or yellow letters as below.

TEXT ON SCREEN

CRUDE CONQUEST: The Triumph of the Texas Oil Industry 1936 1980.

Then, the film credits for those who made the film roll while the overture develops.

Directed by

Skylar Linnie Faye Hodson

Unit Production Director

Sarah Dierflinger

Cinematography by

Emily Hamlin

Screenplay by

Isabel Tresidder

Film Scholar

Vanessajane Bayna

Noah Pettey as Lyndon Johnson

Alison Majors as Lady Bird Johnson

Luke McCraw as William Clements

Ariana Tagg as Rita Bass Clements

Remington Covey as Ralph Yarborough

Madeline Simmons as Opal Yarborough

Kaden Groda as Clint Murchison

Tristan Dierflinger as Leland Olds

Andrew Perez as James Allred

Music By

Kenny Goodson

Produced by

Yahir Garcia

With Special Thanks to:

Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery

The David A. Stevenson Family of Gilmer and Longview

Scene 2 : The Narrator

EXT. Show a different film loop, again with smokestacks, pumping oil, or a crowded interstate.

NARRATOR

I'm not sure if I am the conscience of Texas, or just some composite character. I know I'm not a Democrat, because I do have friends. But I'm not a Republican either. For so many years, Texans disdained Republicans. The humorist O. Henry noted around the turn of the twentieth century that there were only three laws that mattered in Texas. One of them was that it was illegal to vote the Republican ticket.

I know that Texas works. And I am proud that we are like a magnet for enterprising people from around the world. But I am a little curious over why the life expectancy of Texans is suddenly in decline, and why cases of cancer incidence are steadily increasing.

Show trailer footage of Great Depression.

My curiosity about the roots of these current life-and-death issues leads me back in time, a time when culture was up for grabs, the Great Depression of the 1930s. Texas had a governor at that time,

Show dual image of James Allred / Andrew Perez

James Allred, who believed in regulation, and even wanted a sizable tax on the extraction of natural resources. The state also had a highly capable young lawyer,

Show dual image of Ralph Yarborough / Remington Covey

Ralph Yarborough who was a specialist in Texas land law, and a successful prosecutor. This seemed especially needed at a time when big oil companies were using loopholes to evade taxes, and the guidelines of the state's railroad commission.

SCENE 3: Allred meets the young lawyer, Ralph Yarborough.

TEXT ON SCREEN

Governor's Mansion of Texas 1938

JAMES ALLRED

Ralph, I wanted to personally congratulate you for your victory against the Mid-Kansas Oil and Gas company. I have been told that in this one sensational case, you have earned more for the Public School Fund of Texas than any legal action in state history!

They shake hands.

I am curious, where did your resolve for this case against some of the best legal minds in the country come from?

RALPH YARBOROUGH

Governor Allred, the public schools of Chandler, Texas, near Tyler gave me my chance in life. I was the seventh of nine children. If a trip around the world had cost a dollar, my parents couldn't have sent me to the Oklahoma line. And I went from public schools to West Point which was also free.

JAMES ALLRED

That's funny, because it reminds me of my boyhood. In fact I was born by the Oklahoma line in the small town of Bowie.

In any case, young man, I have my eyes on you. As far as I am concerned you are the best assistant attorney general the State of Texas has ever had. Your knowledge of the state land laws is fabulous. I want you to know right now, I plan to get you something bigger, and something whereby you could stay around Austin.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

I'm mighty obliged Governor. I don't know if I am ready for a general election, but with the Mid-Kansas Oil case, doors have been opening to me around the state.

JAMES ALLRED

We could even start with a judgeship, anything to give your family some decent remuneration and keep you here. You know, the state needs a young man like you, someone, who "kin fix windmills,"--by hitting up the special interests.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

Well Governor you and I know that if there is anyone in Texas whose both got money and is hiding it from the public till, it's the oilmen.

JAMES ALLRED

I'd hang my hat on that. But the funny thing about them Ralph is that they can also be as tight as a fiddle-string. Wildcatters take such insane risks, that if you treat them like traditional rich people, they'll either fight like hell, or start breaking the law as they did during that oil-boom circus in the panhandle a few years back.¹

RALPH YARBOROUGH

Well, I am so proud of you Governor for allowing me to take on Big Oil. In the midst of a depression, you are thinking of ways to make the economy work for the average Texan.

Scene 4: Narrator Explains the Rise of LBJ

INT: Show dual image of James Allred/Andrew Perez,

NARRATOR

Well, a funny thing about Allred is that when he tried to raise taxes, the legislature wouldn't budge. And then he was kind of punished for his liberal tendencies in 1942.

¹A reference here to the incredible corruption that existed during the time of the oil rush in Borger, Texas.

He ran for the Senate against another Texas Governor, Pappy O' Daniel, and was clobbered. O'Daniel was a friend of the big oilmen.

Show the dual image of Ralph Yarborough/Remington Covey

And a funny thing about Yarborough too, that in his early days, despite all the money he had won for Texas schools, he too was unable to win elections. His perennial opponent was Governor Alan Shivers,² another friend of big oil in Texas.

But I wouldn't count a tough campaigner like Yarborough out yet. And, in fact, there is another liberal politician which made me Texas proud, and that is

Show dual image of Lyndon Johnson and Noah Pettey

Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Show the trailer clip of Johnson accepting a bribe

Now I know that Johnson's advance from the House to the Senate came at the time he began to get some white envelopes with green surprises from oilmen like

Show dual image of Clint Murchison/Kaden Groda

Clint Murchison (MURCK-ih-son). Murchison, was one of the three big mid-twentieth century oilmen in Texas, the other being H.L. Hunt and Sid Richardson. And I can't get too down on Murchison, because he and his family did give us the Dallas Cowboys, not to mention the Dallas Cowgirls. But Murchison was the most visible and shall we say extravagant of the three.

Show dual image of Lyndon Johnson and Noah Pettey

Well back to Johnson. Johnson like Murchison could be corrupt. But in an odd way, LBJ was so selfish and power hungry, that I don't think Johnson was really beholden to anyone. At least he knew a majority had to support him at some point. He had no real ideological commitments. Perhaps in some quirky way he could do what was best for Texas. Besides that, he had a super-smart and conscientious wife, Lady Bird, who did much to advance the cultivation of our state flower, the bluebonnet along our highways.

² Pronounced SHIV-ers, with a soft i.

Scene 5: LBJ and Lady Bird

INT. Both are lying in bed. LBJ is in his undershirt, and Lady Bird has a proper nightgown.

LYNDON JOHNSON

Rolls in bed and growls to his wife:

Kant sleep.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Well Senator Johnson, it may be an indifferent night, but I think a lot of good things are coming together. Luci Baines is gaining weight, and Lynda Bird enjoyed her first day of Kindergarten. I heard from Welker, our manager of the Austin radio station, KTBC, last night, that our current advertising roster should help us to clear \$100,000 for the yeah.

Johnson rolls restlessly again.

I think your wife is going to be a millionaire.

Silence from LBJ, as if he is finally asleep.

I hope you are happy with us.

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Lady Bird, I am delighted and content. If only my stomach was feeling bettah.

Voice becomes more acerbic.

Say you missed that handkerchief in my right pants pocket this morning, and I had to blow my snot out all over Walter Jenkins when he gave me my second cup of coffee.

It served him right, though

Showing some upset.

Can you believe he couldn't even remember the name of Mike Mansfield the other day?

Rolls over again as if this might be the last thing he says.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Lyndon, I've told you again and again, you've got to stop all that alcohol you do on top of an empty stomach. You don't eat right, and then you drink too much!

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Well I've got a revolving door of appointments all day, and I think it's all worth it, because I think I am off to a really good start in the Senate.

Suddenly animated.

I just hired two new staffers today. We've got four brand new white pearl Olivetti typewriters, the best travel and food budget in the Senate, and a whole panel stocked with the best bourbon for when the old dogs prowl around wantin ta do some real bidness.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Lyndon, I know you're not stealing money from our **KTBC** radio station, or the **Soviet** KGB for that matter, and I know our finances are fine. I know you say you have had some great Texas supporters, which was understandable during the election, when they wagered a lot of money on your success.

But where are you getting all this additional money from?

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Rather than worrying about that, why don't you be sure that the two eggs I git for tomorrow's breakfast in bed, are unbroken sunny-side up, and I want now the *Chicago Tribune* as well as the *Times*, the *Post* and the *Wall Street Journal* to start my day.

LADY BIRD

Frowning with a bit of a glare in the eyes.

Lyndon!

As if to break him from a stupor.

I mean, I could understand the helicopters, and all those Stetsons you threw away, during the election, but money is not like sand on the sea!

Louder.

How as a junior Senator are you getting so much operating income?

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Well let's jes say darlin that a lot of my Texas supporters are not only willin to go above-and-beyond in thar help, but are willin to back me in above-and-beyond ways.

Smugly, and softer.

And I wish my wife would learn something from that kind of affection.

Camera touches a hint of sadness in Lady Bird's face.

Scene 6: Leland Olds with New Narrator Preamble

NARRATOR

Another random picture, just of Noah Pettey.

You could see that an ambitious first-term Senator like Lyndon B. Johnson, might be just the man to deal with

Show dual picture of Leland Olds, and Tristan Dierflinger

the Chairman of the American Energy Commission, Leland Olds. Olds, a New Englander who received his highest degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, was acutely aware of how resources like oil were readily available only to a select elite of oilmen. Moreover, that elite was moving West. Olds favored federal policies that would give consumers the power to check the producers of oil. Unfortunately for Olds, Lyndon Johnson in a short period of time, hand already wine and dined several senators. One was Senator MacFarland of Oklahoma who in hearings about oil, had some tough questions for the energy czar:

TEXT ON SCREEN

Senate Building, 1949

SENATOR MCFARLAND

“It is evident that Mr Olds would restrict their returns on the basis of original cost, would strip all gas moving in the interstate commerce of any value as a commodity, and would pursue a so-called “Investment Return Principle” to its ultimate result – a Vanishing Ban Rate. Mr Olds, right there: this testimony that you are about to give to the Senate—the chairman referred to a report of the majority and a report of the minority. Your report will represent your own individual views; is this correct?”

LELAND OLDS

“My views in support of the majority’s report.”

SENATOR MCFARLAND

“But we want to know whether what you are saying represents your own views, or is it a compromise for the majority?”

LELAND OLDS

“Senator, with all due respect, I would not be putting my name on the line for a cause I did not personally support.”

SENATOR MCFARLAND

“You have the floor. But keep it brief.”

LELAND OLDS

“Senator, your misuse of my words is shameless, but I trust my cause will speak for itself. I just want to say this: When a producer finds it to his advantage to sell to a utility market and decides to sell to one, thereafter I think he should be subject to regulation because it is a utility business just as much as the sale by a pipe line to a utility market. He can choose, however—he can say, ‘I prefer not to sell to a utility market,’ and in that case he can keep his gas and sell it anyway he wants. But once he chooses to supply a utility market, then he assumes that responsibility, which both the Federal Government and the State governments have indicated require regulation in order to protect all interests concerned. It is the government’s responsibility to regulate these sales, and it would be irresponsible to allow a producer to sell his wares to a utility market completely unchecked. This is simply common sense. Both the government and the producer have roles to play, all I am asking is that you let them play them properly. No attempt of yours to twist my words will change this.”

Scene 7 (Deleted)

Scene 8: Clint and Leland.

CLINT MURCHISON

“Howdy, gentlemen. Mind if I join you for a game?”

LELAND OLDS

“I’ll be damned. Is that Clint Murchinson I see? Come on all already and join us, the game’s barely started.”

(Golf stuff. How do you play golf anyway? Good question)

Clint gets Leland alone.

CLINT MURCHISON

“You know, Leland, I always thought you were a smart man. It’s a damn shame we ended up on opposite ends of our oil politics.”

LELAND OLDS

“You flatter me.”

CLINT MURCHISON

“Listen, Commissioner Olds, I represent a consortium of oilmen who look very favorably upon you and your work, save your insistence on passing bills rather unfavorable to our business. I figure you and I could have a talk, resolve our differences.”

Reaches into a briefcase and hands Olds a white envelope filled with cash.

LELAND OLDS

“What... what is this?”

CLINT MURCHISON

“Take a look inside. Just call it a white envelope with a green surprise. You can have it, and a lot more like it, if you decide to cross the divide and join us humble workers in oil, support our cause. Trust me, there’s-”

LELAND OLDS

“I’m going to stop you there. I don’t know what kind of man you take me for, but you sized me up plain wrong. I don’t want your cash, and I certainly don’t want your offer. If you think I’ll play puppet for you, you’ve got another thing coming. Good day, Mr. Murchinson.”

Scenes 9-11 Deleted

Scene 12: Narrator on Johnson:

NARRATOR

Show this Picture (Google Image<Lyndon Johnson yelling with Baby>:



Perhaps I shouldn’t be so proud of Johnson, especially when he behaved like a barnyard animal, but he did have a way with words. He once called President John Kennedy’s brother, Bobby, “that little runt.” And as far as Olds was concerned, Johnson and his aides rejoiced when they found older records of a younger Leland Olds backing Communist principles. Johnson provided an important cue to Senator Joseph McCarthy whose own accusations about subversives in government came a year later. The Texas Senator told journalists and fellow Senators that Leland Olds was an unabashed Communist.

Scene 13: Olds Receives the Boot

Fade in.

NEWSBOY

“Extra! Extra! Hear all about it! Commissioner Leland Olds outed as a communist in scandal! Only 5 cents a paper!”

SCENE 14 Deleted

SCENE 15 Narrator

NARRATOR

Show Tidelands zone of Texas.

Lyndon Johnson, Clint Murchison and other political leaders believed they were serving Texas at the time by preserving the Texas tidelands district for state rather than federal use. This could have provided some nice beaches. But instead, it provided another rich field for oil drilling, and a new Texas multimillionaire oilman came to the scene. This was an SMU graduate from Dallas, William Clements, not that he necessarily always got along with the oilmen before him who had gotten rich inside the state.

Scene 16: Clint and Bill

CLINT Murchison

Bill, I am not going to give you a loan, pure and simple.

Bill Clements

Well thanks Clint — for nothing

CLINT

But I can give you something better. Did you know that our team got Leland Olds off the Federal Energy Commission yesterday?

Bill, not having the government on your back, is a pretty good gift isn't it?

Clements looks surprised.

Scene 17: Opal Yarborough and Lady Bird Meeting for Tea

OPAL YARBOROUGH

So what school is your Luci Bird attending in DC?

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Makes a face as if this is controversial:

The National Cathedral School. When I graduated from the high school at Marshall, Texas, I first went to a two-year college in Dallas, a St. Mary's Episcopal School for young women. I always loved the art, and grace of Episcopal services, and became an Episcopalian at that time.³

OPAL YARBOROUGH

Is Lyndon an Episcopalian?

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Well he's part of the Christian church on paper at least, actually . . . he goes to a lot of churches, and well, he . . .

OPAL YARBOROUGH

What?

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

He goes with me to Episcopal services, sometimes, but . . . he has his quirks. For example, he has talked about building a memorial for God. Usually one builds a memorial for one who has died.

OPAL YARBOROUGH

Do you think he is a Christian?

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

God is merciful, and yes, I do think he is a Christian.

OPAL YARBOROUGH

My husband, Ralph, and I are Methodists in that we agree with them 51 percent of the time. We are from the small town of Chandler, near Tyler. I thank you for meeting with me. My husband would very much like to be Governor or Senator, and is very unhappy with the Shivercrats.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Lyndon has reservations for Allen Shivers and his inane control over our state as well. A lot of oilmen behind him. And your husband fought big oil, right—in the 1930s!

OPAL YARBOROUGH

Yes He did. But I am beginning to think that unless he opens up to the oilmen, he will never win in Texas.

And I mean . . .

She sheds a tear.

He puts his whole life into it, and I fear he is wasting it.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Opal your husband and Lyndon are very close, closer than you might think on Civil Rights, and using oil money to pay for public services. I think if your husband would start playing the game with the oilmen, like fighting for the depletion allowance on the national level, he would start winning.

SCENE 18 YARBOROUGH LOSES AGAIN

RALPH

Opens door and is downcast

Good evening, Mrs. Yarborough.

OPAL

O Ralph, you poor boy. No one loses three elections.

RALPH

I try so hard, only to fail, again and again. That cowboy, Allen Shivers outspent me again.

OPAL

Honey, you have to remember our old East Texas expression that one kant be able to “git his lard unless he’s prepared to boil the pig.”

RALPH

What does that mean?

OPAL

Stop going against the oilmen. Start using them.

RALPH

But they’re totally opposed to the great society of social care that I am struggling for.

OPAL

Well I think you need to keep a date with me to go to the art gallery tomorrow, in Dallas. We can stay at the Hilton in the Arts District.

RALPH

I suppose.

SCENE 19: Narrator

Int. This painting by George Grammer should be shown below.



Google Image <Oil Derricks at Night by George Grammer>

NARRATOR

Well it should be told that Opal's plot got Yarborough to see a recent painting purchased by the DMA. It was the *Oil Derricks at Night*, by the Fort Worth artist, George Grammer. Rather than portraying rusting, gray networks deleting the countryside of color, Grammer adorned his derricks with coronas that glisten with a life-giving light. A delft-blue horizon holds out against the black duco night. Copper-tones, and goldenrod colors appear, a testament to the wealth that oil provided, not only for the oil barons but for the thousands of roughnecks, accountants, machinists, welders, truckers, and construction workers that Yarborough hoped to represent.

SCENE 19B:

MESSENGER

Comes and gives LBJ white envelope with a green (money) surprise. Departs after Johnson says thank you.

LBJ

To messenger

Thank you.

To Yarborough

I'm glad our wives have something in common. O I know, my wife's from Karnack, on the northeastern end of the state, and you two are from Tyler.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

Well, Chandler, actually...

LBJ

You know Ralph, what I really like about you, is that you fight for the disadvantaged. But you know what?

RALPH YARBOROUGH

What?

LBJ

You've got to quit being so stupid.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

Now why am I stupid if I have pointed the way for equality for all?

LBJ

You're stupid because you don't know how many lowerclass working people in Texas get their jobs in the mines, in driving trucks, in working as roughnecks in the oil business.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

Look I'm opposed to the Murchisons, and Richardsons!

LBJ

So am I, but I'm not as stupid as you are, so I try to bend them to my wishes.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

What do you do for them to get them on your side?

LBJ

Look Ralph, when the national government is involved, you fight for the 27.5 percent oil depletion, you fight for the right to drill oil in the Texas Tidelands.

Then, they'll be your friends, and even accept taxation, free tuition, and public projects, anything that's good for Texas!

RALPH YARBOROUGH

But..

LBJ

No buts, Ralph. I am going to make a winner out of you!

Scene 20: Murchison unveils Clements to Yarborough, Lyndon and Lady Bird.

INT. This would work well on the stage of the Whatley. The idea is that of a cavernous hall, with only four chairs and a long table. Four settings are sumptuously set. Clements should be dressed in a gaudy tie and sportcoat that don't go together. He was semi-famous for this. Clements also wears cowboy boots, and speaks with a strong—though perhaps affected Western accent. Though it may be actually impossible to smoke in the Whatley, Clements should have a cigarette, and act like he is smoking. Perhaps our producer could add smoke later.

Lady Bird and LBJ arrive, mystified. Rush arrives and passes Lyndon a white envelope. Lyndon hides it even from Lady Bird who peers to see what is going on.

LYNDON JOHNSON

Clint, "I'm kind of confused. I thought you had invited us tonight to a \$1,000-a plate dinner. There are only five seats here in this room!

CLINT MURCHISON

That's right Senator Johnson. It turns out that one person jumped to the head of line, and bought all 1,000 tickets!

But that is no tragedy. Because tonight, I will have the opportunity to introduce you to this person, who also represents some of the fruit of your labors. Senator Johnson, and also now yours too, Mr. Yarborough, your support for the 27.5 percent Depletion allowance and the Texas' right to its Tidelands has had some remarkable ramifications.

He is the one, he is the great benefactor of your benevolent policy, the man who has found lakes of oil beneath the Texas beaches, drilling up sand dunes, sand bars, fish hatcheries and coral reefs, the man who has exported his fabulous ideas about off-shore drilling around the globe

Before him, we knew we could extract oil from dirt, but now we know we can extract oil from water!

Murchison works his way up to dramatic ecstasy

The great Captain Nemo of the Texas Tidelands.

William P. Clements!

WILLIAM CLEMENTS

Welcome, Top Texas Couple, and Good Ole Tidewater Comrade, Mr. Yarborough! Its me, Bill Clements, known as the true SOB of Texas—Sweet Ole Bill, that is!

Clements laughs almost insanely. Both Lyndon and Lady Bird show signs of gagging on their food in the narrative ahead.

I'm Texian to my toenails not only cause I was born in Dallas and went to Highland Park High School, but because I've purchased the largest library on Texas history in the state.

Go ahead quiz me—ask me who the first soldier was to die in the Alamo!

Gleefully waves money.

In fact I am the one who is persuading James Michener to write a novel about Texas.

That will be his only novel that goes over 1,000 pages!

I insisted anything about Texas had to be larger than life!

Laughs, though no-one else is.

In any case, I am thankful as hell for all the beach time you have given me. Ha Ha. I jes love the Texas Tidelands! The other day we destroyed a coral reef, so we could put up an offshore platform. Oh the shabby beauty looking out over the ocean at the etching of that oil rig during sunrise!

And do you know that the Texas Gulf has become a destination for surfers? The waves set off towards shore by an incoming oil tanker beat anything they have in California!

Of course, you can never know when an oil tanker might arrive, because that is classified information.

And Clint tells me, Senator Johnson, that I have the bonefides to join the white envelope club.

Lady Bird looks to Lyndon to unmask this strange notion. Johnson ignores the stare but utters a slightly unenthusiased reply.

LYNDON JOHNSON

That's great news . . . Bill.

WILLIAM CLEMENTS

Senator Johnson, every Texas oilman looks to you as a great enabler. And I was wonderin', . . . well, thar's just too much welfare in the works these days. And I wonder if you could do somethin to cut that out

Looks down to his own cowboy boots

People need to take responsibility for themselves, pull themselves up by the pull straps of their own cowboy boots.

Government can't buy their own boots for them, it might not have the right vamp, and toe box to fit them right!

We've got to stop playing nanny to our people. Get those young people to work hard if they want to go to college, get those unwed mothers off to work, let the minorities know that the best path to dignity is to work their asses off like I did.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Looking to and whispering to Lyndon

I can see this is going to be an interesting night. And

I think you have a lot of explainin to do.

Scene 21: Lyndon, Yarborough and Lady Bird Discuss Clements, and rising State Conservatism.

INT. *The scene is Lyndon's bedroom (an actual place where he held business sessions) LBJ is in his pajamas, and looking sick. Ladybird and Ralph Yarborough are dressed professionally.*

RALPH YARBOROUGH

Looking dubious, but wanting to put the best construction on it.

I must be quite a favored person here to invited to your bedroom for this meeting.

LADYBIRD

Actually, Ralph, I never know who I will find in Lyndon's bedroom. Of course, today the Majority Leader of the Senator is not feeling well.

Ladybird is not oblivious to the connotations in her remark, but she ignores them, and goes on.

The other morning, three reporters were in here. Actually, he's not feeling kind of . . . dizzy.

Well let me start. Ralph and Lyndon, I don't know but I think your support for the Texas Tidelands and the depletion allowance has created a monster. Even the scent of this man repulses me, not to mention his cigarette smoke. He is like some Frankenstein from the depths of the Texas shore, like some beast emerging from the sea!

RALPH YARBOROUGH

William Clements is a new breed alright. The Sid Richardsons, and Clint Murchisons, maybe voted Republican, but they were willing to hedge their bets and help us. This new Clements type of oilman, is well . . . a problem.

LADYBIRD JOHNSON

Ladybird and Johnson look like Ralph is adding nothing to their understanding. She feels Johnson's forehead, and puts a wet rag up to it.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

Moves his chair further away from the presumably sick, Johnson.

LYNDON JOHNSON

Almost whispering.

He's as crazy . . . as a bullbat.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

What is interesting is the way he mixes cowboy imagery into the notion of rank conservatism. Wasn't he at all thankful for the New Deal?

LADYBIRD

Well I've heard that he was just a kind of irresponsible teenager during the New Deal of the 1930s, hunting birds with his dog around White Rock Lake, even though there was an ordinance against it.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

I can't believe that someone who was born in Texas, went to school at SMU, and worked in the oil patch, has an accent that seems to resemble a Texas cowboy, more than the engineer he was.

LYNDON JOHNSON

Ladybird may I have some bourbon?

LADYBIRD

Its 9 a.m. in the morning. No. You may not!

Have some soda.

Gives him a glass.

RALPH YARBOROUGH

Tries to put the finishing touches on a largely unproductive encounter, standing up.

Well I wouldn't worry too much about Clements. His conservatism is old school. He's so uncouth, and unable to control his emotions! He can't even talk in any winsome way! Without having a lot of coaching, this man is going nowhere in terms of influencing public opinion, and calling the shots in Texas.

Scene 22. Clements, somewhat Snubbed, meets Rita (1957)

Int. CLEMENTS is sitting alone at a table during an oilman's convention.

(His wife Pauline isn't working out. Neither is her husband Richard)

She is walking along the wall away from Clements. He is seated at a table.

WILLIAM CLEMENTS

Hey, whoa, haven't I seen you here before at his convention?

RITA BASS (Soon to be CLEMENTS)

Yes, you probably have. Oil has been in the family. My father, Mason Crocker was an oilman, and so is my husband, who you probably know, Richard Bass.

WILLIAM CLEMENTS

O yes I know him. He went to Highland Park High School after I did. How is he doing with his mountain climbing?

RITA BASS (Soon to be CLEMENTS)

Well that's a long trail of a story.

Turns to keep going, but then stops when he makes his appeal.

WILLIAM CLEMENTS

Say, why don't you join me? Aren't you the woman who is also active in Dallas Republican politics? I have serious money I want to give to the cause!

RITA BASS (Soon to be CLEMENTS)

Sits down with him. Flashes a droll smile

Well now you've blown my cover already. I take it you would like to contribute to our Republican campaigns in North Texas?

WILLIAM CLEMENTS

I sure would! As a patriotic duty.

How much do you regard at a good contribution these days?

RITA BASS (Soon to be CLEMENTS)

One-thousand dollars to help elect John Tower as the first Republican Senator from Texas would be amazing.

WILLIAM CLEMENTS

Pulls out a check and writes it.

Well here's \$3,000 for Tower and \$2,000 for your expenses.

Just fill in what you want in the Payee line. Make it out to you, or the Tower campaign, or whatever.

RITA BASS (Soon to be CLEMENTS)

This is marvelous, thank you!

WILLIAM CLEMENTS

Yeah, I've just been in DC talking with Tower's upcoming opponent Senator Johnson, and his wife, Lady Bird.

Don't trust em, and I don't think they like me.

I wish I could run for office some time.

RITA BASS

Oh, but you could! The Texas Republican Party needs successful businessmen like you.

WILLIAM CLEMENTS

Would you be willing to give me some coaching, if I made that decision?

RITA BASS

You bet!

[\[1\]](#) Captain Nemo was a well-known character of Jules Verne science fiction. Verne was along with H.G. Wells, one of the first science fiction writers of renown, a famous personality in the late-nineteenth century. Captain Nemo has since been used as a metaphor for a deep, complex, controlling force. In Verne's tales, Nemo operated a huge submarine, in an age before submarines, and made his own rules he sailed through the deep. He also had sinister overtones.

[2] It is kind of a fake question. We do not know the first Texian, only the names of some of the first Mexicans.

[3] Michener was a best-selling American author of the late-twentieth century who engaged the educated classes, and the American upper-class. What Clements says is correct.

[4] Texas is of course not a destination for surfers, but several surfers do attest that oil tankers do create excellent waves. Clements is right in saying that information regarding the arrival of oil tankers is classified.

Scene 23: (Flashback scene) Clements in the creation of SEDCO

(Scene opens in black and white, Clements is standing behind a podium, Cameras flashing. It should look old and grainy because the founding was in 1947)

Clements: Fellow Americans, today is a good day for not just our great nation, but for the entire world! We haven't just created a drilling company, but have redefined the entire industry!

Crowd: [Cheering]

Clements (smiling): Gone are the days of disunity between nations, meager labor, and lack of crude oil supply! Starting today, the world works as one, under SEDCO! What was a dream some decades ago is now reality!

Clements (continuing): With SEDCO, we will drill everywhere in the world! We have rigs in the gulf of Mexico, off the coast of California, in France, Switzerland, and even India! Why, I predict that in only a few years, walking to get places will be a thing of the past!

Crowd: (Cheers even louder, clapping)

Clements: I would however, like to address some of the skeptics in the room today, mainly some would-be investors that doubt our efforts, and believe that we are being rather—dare I say—rash about our mass drilling in the Texas Tidelands. To them I say, the time has never been more ripe for the oil industry! With everyone's cooperation, we will enter a new age!

The technology we have today will allow us to create rigs in locations that were once deemed unthinkable! We will yield tens of thousands of barrels a day! Why, the only thing that separates us from a modern day Tower of Babel is that God himself smiles upon all the nations! Today, the world moves forward!

Crowd: (ecstatic clapping, cheering)

As the scene progresses, a vivid slideshow of newspapers rolls—The oil industry profiting, Clements being praised in business papers, his eventual turn to politics and people’s overwhelming support. However, other newspapers begin to appear too: oil rig failures and thousands of gallons of crude oil being wasted into the sea, the air levels slowly growing worse in more condensed drilling areas, once preserved land ruined, people beginning to protest. Clements continues to rise in popularity, despite this.

Scene 24: William Clements and Reporter. Clements is running for Texas Governor, and being interviewed. (1978)

Reporter (*maybe the same one from the intro?*): Good morning! Today we have a special guest interview with William Perry Clements Jr., who as you all know, is running as the Republican Nominee for Texas Governor this coming 1978 State election. How are you doing this fine morning Clements?

Clements: Wonderful Pat. (*like I said, I don’t know about our “reporter” situation yet*) I’m extremely glad to be here today. All press is good press during an election I say.

Reporter: Mr. Clements, while Texas has primarily leaned to the left side of the political spectrum for over a century, you have gained tremendous traction in the polls over the past few months, just narrowly matching your rival candidate, John Hill. What would you say has helped you accomplish this?

Clements: I would say my reputation precedes me, Pat, but I suppose serving as Deputy in the Secretary of Defense under a President would give a preceding reputation to anyone.

Clements (Smiling): What I believe has helped me so much this election, is the drive for a fresh start for Texas. Everywhere I look in this Great State, I see the cries for reform. In education, budget, crime rates, jobs, even the oil industry! And believe me Pat, I know a thing or two myself about oil.

Reporter: (Laughs)

Clements (serious now): The largest problem I see, however, is the proposed solutions. Democratic Governor after Governor, they repeatedly choose to take the costly way out and spend the State budget instead of taking responsibility and handling these problems head on. Where does that get us in a few years? Right back where we started. I believe this strategy, Pat, is simply beating a dead horse!

Reporter: Critics say that you take too many risks where both the environment and the economy is concerned. They claim that you view the State too much like a businessman, and not enough like an experienced politician. They also say that conservatives would like nothing more than to cut government-funded programs instead of looking out for the public. How do you respond to these statements?

Clements: I wholeheartedly believe my critics are incorrect. Every stance, every action that I will take as Governor will be all to benefit the interests of the State as a whole. Thirty years ago, I united the nations under SEDCO to benefit not just America, but the world as a whole. Despite a few setbacks, we have emerged as one of the most successful companies in the world! I believe that a healthy economy is a profitable one, and if a healthy economy requires unity to achieve, then keeping my promises to the people will be my largest priority.

Reporter: Well said, Mr. Clements! Folks, this is gearing up to be an interesting election indeed! I'm not a betting man, but if I had to put a wager on this election, my money would be on our friend Bill here! We'll be back right after these messages.

(News Production fades to black)

Scene 25: Bill and Rita at table, Bill is reading the evening post. (1978)

Bill: My darling, both God and luck are on our sides. The minority communities may just be what I need to pull ahead in the polls.

Rita: You certainly pushed the right buttons during your interview today. The oilmen and the rural voters sing your praises. I can't believe that you'll be the first republican Governor since reconstruction if you win!

Bill (smirk): When I win.

Rita: (Laughs)

Bill: What is more amazing is watching the Democrat's tried and true formula come crashing down on their heads before their very eyes. No longer will the voters stand by while the liberals spend their way out of whatever bumps or potholes they come across. People are tired dear. They want a fresh approach. Something big. Someone new to follow. And someone else to blame.

Rita: I feel like that's all I hear in the news nowadays. People don't want to solve the problems that are already there, they simply want to blame whatever official who's already in charge!

Bill: The people who choose not to cast their vote for me only have themselves to blame. In truth, the Democrats and the oilmen need each other. Everything the liberals want—whether it be better infrastructure, tuition grants, or welfare programs—can all come from oil and the work on the rigs. Drill everywhere, I say. Even a little drilling will do wonders for this economy.

Rita: The oilmen were right to side with you! I just can't believe it took this long for Texas to wake up from their daydream. Maybe we'll finally be able to solve some problems around here instead of creating them!

Bill (smiling): That, my darling, is the exact kind of thinking that will let us emerge victorious.

(Rita smiles too)

(Delete this if this should be a scene within itself)----> Montage of newsreels where Clements wins the election, he is met with praise from both the oilmen and the public. He signs Act after Act granting leeway to oilmen and allows exuberant drilling within the gulf. The economy grows at the price of the environment.

Scene 26: Clements and his Advisor in Clements' office. (Knocking at the door)

Clements: Come in!

Advisor: Big news sir.

Clements (sarcastically): They seem to have brought me a lot of that since I became Governor. More complaints from the left I suppose?

Advisor: No sir. The Ixtoc I just blew out. The reserves are draining into the gulf as we speak.

Clements (taken aback): What!? How could this have happened?

Advisor: We don't currently know sir, the press suspects safety oversight.

Clements (scrunches): I see. Ixtoc is in the Gulf of Mexico, not Texas. If the authorities can get it under control in time, damage should be minimal. Does this spill pose any threat to the Texas shores as is?

Advisor: Not currently sir, but we should be prepared nonetheless.

Clements: Well, that should buy us time. What are the investors saying?

Advisor: They're as alarmed as we are sir, but don't you think shore protection should be our priority?

Clements: I've seen many oil rig failures in my lifetime. If PEMEX gets their act together fast, they can stomp out this fire before its flames spread. I was elected on behalf of the oil investors and businessmen. Ensuring their support does not waiver is of utmost importance. Their unity will ensure everyone else's. Let's give Mexico clean up their own messes before we have to.

Advisor: Are you sure that's wise sir?

Clements (frowning): If I second-guessed myself, I wouldn't be sitting here right now, would I? Call the backers.

Advisor: Yes sir.

Scene ends, montages of the Ixtoc burning. Clements vastly underestimates the severity of the spill, and soon it spreads to the Texas waters. Clements goes on press conferences proclaiming that ocean cleanup is a top priority for the State, but he is heckled by his critics.

SCENE 27: for Closure

They are having breakfast

RITA

O dear, don't feel so blue about the spill. As you said, it was just like spilt milk. I mean milk does make a mess, but it can be cleaned up.

BILL CLEMENTS

I'm just worried that my public image is starting to sag.

RITA

That will never happen Bill! You are the first Republican since Reconstruction, to sit in the Governor's Mansion! You were the one who started drilling in the Tidelands before we knew for sure, Texas would have it, and I think everyone should admire you for taking that risk. You exemplify capitalism, and stewardship of the land, so that all Texans can prosper, so we can have giant interstates, and great oil distilleries, and be the energy capital of the world!

Johnson, and Yarborough thought they were great. But in place of their interest in regulated economies, you have given us the freedom that we fought for in 1836 against Santa Anna!

You are truest Texan, of all time Bill, because you transcend economics and politics. You represent the way Texans have coped throughout history. They have made the best of their situation. If they needed wheat, and to plow up west Texas, they did it. And if they needed billions of barrels of oil to whip the Nazis, they did it! You are a true hero, for now and forever!

BILL CLEMENTS

Thank you Rita, I could not have said it better, myself.

Scene 28: Epilogue

NARRATOR

Music of this scene could attempt to comment on the script, as well as build to a climax. It could be a kind of anti-melody to our state anthem Texas Our Texas, coming out in the end finally in a more major key. It could also take off from “Beautiful Texas” as played and sung by our former Governor, Pappy O’Daniel, and the Light Crust Doughboys, as well as Willie Nelson.

Show Picture of Rita and Bill Clements/Ariana Tagg and Luke McCraw, for a moment, then replay a scene they had together with that scene’s audio.

Rita and Clements clicked to a degree that helped change the political direction of our state. Despite his anger management issues, Clements was the man for her after being humiliated in her own first marriage to mountaineer, Richard Bass. The marriage of Rita and Bill lasted until his death in 2011. When Rita met Clements, her husband, Richard, was living apart at his snow resort in Utah, partying each weekend with lovely women from around the world. Rita ricocheted from her shame to become a fanatic on behalf of her new husband, Bill, and the state’s First Lady.

Show Election of 1978 Map. Google Wikipedia <Texas Gubernatorial Election of 1978>.

If the truth be told, her campaigning in West Texas probably put Clements over the top, as he won in 1978 over Democrat, John Hill, by a razor-sharp margin 50 to 49 percent, thus initiating Republican dominance in the state that has continued to the present day.

Show Noah Pettey and Remington Covey, a shot from their scene together.

As for Lyndon Johnson, and Ralph Yarborough, we had with them some of the last of the state’s liberals who might have re-envisioned the state’s petro-culture. Johnson did sign the first of many clean air acts as President, and Yarborough helped preserve natural areas Texans today revere, such as the Big Thicket, South Padre Island, and Big Bend National Park. Still, the liberals in the main were bought off by the oil companies, and in the end labored to make room for a man and party they disliked, William Clements, and the Republican Party.

Show large Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

As for the “spilt milk,” well we are still living with that today. During the time when Clements was a two-term Governor, the state built

Show Powerplant

ten new powerplants, and these coal-burning facilities, and others like them have helped bring toxicity to every corner of the state, including trace amounts of lead and mercury.

Show highway scene

The Texas car culture, which seems to permit a vehicle for every adult, also may be becoming a menace in our big cities. Here TRAP gasses—traffic-related air pollution are according to experts shaving about a year off the lifespans of those who are daily dependent on the larger highways.



(Might show this picture on left)

So this is our past, what are we to do with our future? As a proud Texan, I realize I may be a little too proud of all the money we have been able to spend, and the things we have been able to afford. Like Johnson, and Yarborough, I too have made my peace with big oil, and cheered the philanthropy, and dynamism it has brought out state.

to tell.

As for the future generation, I have one story

Could the Image Below be shown?



Back during the age when Horse-drawn wagons dominated our urban roads. Pedestrians had to look twice, not just for the horses, but for the carryover of privies, cesspools, chamber pots, trash, and slaughterhouse waste that were

carelessly dumped into streets. These conditions did not improve for some time. Unimaginably vile streets accompanied some sixty years of our history. The churning umber ooze of these thoroughfares attracted flies by the millions, and other insects that served as vectors for over 100 pathogens, including *Shigella* (shuh-GEH-ah), *Campylobacter* (KAM-puh-low-bak-tr), *Salmonella*, *enterohemorrhagic E. coli*, *Bacillus* (bah-SILL-as AN-thrah-sis) *anthracis*, and *Vibrio cholerae*. (VIH bree-oh Chol er ae)

Roll the opening scenes again with the smokestacks.

We solved that problem, ironically with the use of automobiles. But now I reckon, it will be incumbent on a new generation, to find yet another solution for our initial solution. It isn't getting any better. In fact, our acceptance of petro-culture is part of an even larger toleration for contamination. Currently Texas has over fifty superfund sites, with wastes that are obviously hazardous to human health. Many of these sites lie on the boundaries of poor urban neighborhoods, where tens of thousands of people are exposed to toxic materials on a daily basis. Then there are over 200 landfills which are not getting any better or smaller, contaminating ground water, and leaking sizable amounts of methane into the air.

Narrator becomes more emotional.

Given these issues, I-- even I, must reflect that pride, yes even Texas pride . . . will come before the fall. Somehow, I need to prepare myself for a reset. I need to become more conscious of the ways I might be breaking my own law, not to mess with Texas!

Somewhat breaking voice reaches a climax.

I don't want to have lived only to destroy!

Narrator collects himself.

Random shots of majestic Texas scenes.

But I am confident that we can find some way to rethink habits that have become injurious. We cleaned our streets. Though a recent study attests that I still wouldn't want to live by it, the water of the Houston ship channel has gotten better. To some extent wind and solar power have diverted the problem with acid rain. We have learned to compost, and to tolerate unleaded gasoline, as well as reusable bags, and bottles.

Both our former Governor, Pappy O' Daniel, and that persevering Texas Troubadour, Willie Nelson used to sing the song, "Beautiful Texas." Our own state anthem tells of a place "so wonderful, so great." I believe that with God's help we will succeed! Can we not pass along to future generations, a Texas that will continue to be, wonderful, beautiful, and great?