

**EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT
THE US CONSTITUTION -**

BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO READ

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C 2013

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CONSTITUTION -**

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SCENE - STAGE AREA HAS A SMALL TABLE AND MAY BE DECORATED WITH A PATRIOTIC FLAIR.

Two people, Ashley and Reagan, enter from opposite sides. Ashley is in career wear with a patriotic flair and Reagan is wearing casual clothes and wears or carries the following:

A belt

A sign on a stick, "Don't Tread On Me"

Another sign on a stick, "Certain Inalienable Rights Endowed by Our Creator - Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness"

A small Bible

A giant voter's ballot card

A dressy tie

A backpack with a branch having three off-shoots sticking up over his head with signs on the off-shoots saying, "Executive", "Judicial", "Legislative"

A big straw or funny looking hat which advertises his state (i.e. California map, the word CALI, or California on it)

A gavel

A paper map of the US

Hunting sleeve with shotgun shells or bullets in it

A small piece of rope tied on one wrist only, the end of which looks like it was once tied to the other wrist

Ashley carries in, then sets down on the table, a 6 inch thick stack of paper, tied with string, the top paper of which has typed words covering it, and a title in large font: IRS Tax Code

ASHLEY

(Pointing to all his paraphenalia and his belt) Hi, Reagan. What's up with the crazy get-up? You look rather encumbered today.

REAGAN

Oh, this isn't a cumberbund, it's just a plain old belt.

ASHLEY

I'm referring to your plethora of fashion accessories. Where are you headed?

REAGAN

To a constitution party!

ASHLEY

To celebrate...?

REAGAN

All the rights and benefits our constitution provides us. Thought I'd bring along a few visual aids.

ASHLEY

A few?! You look like a one man... something or other...

REAGAN

(Dramatically)

I may be merely one, solitary citizen of these United States of America--

(cheering up)

--but I'm allowed to do *all* these things at once if I want to.

ASHLEY

I hardly think the constitution is telling you to do all these ...

REAGAN

Take these for instance.

(Holds up his two demonstration signs and his bible)

1st Amendment. Freedom of speech, Freedom of religion, the right to assemble, the right to...

ASHLEY

Ok, ok, I get it.
(Aside)

(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

If the freedom of religion section is anything like some long-winded preachers I know, I can imagine how many pages *that* part takes up...

(to Reagan)

But just demonstrating and talking isn't going to make change happen.

REAGAN

(Holding up Ballot)

That's why we vote! 15th Amendment - anyone of any race has the right to vote.

ASHLEY

But I'm a girl...

REAGAN

Women's right to vote? The 19th.

ASHLEY

The only problem with voting is you vote for things and then they don't work.

REAGAN

Like the 18th Amendment.

ASHLEY

Prohibition, right?

REAGAN

Repealed by the 21st.

ASHLEY

I see. Well, too bad we can't repeal some of the people we vote in to office - they get up there and live like kings forever!

REAGAN

(Straightening tie)

Well, some of them may live like kings, but the fact is, they aren't kings and even the president can't be the prez forever. Articles 1 through 5, and the 12th, 17th, 20th, 22nd, and 26th Amendments all put limits on our leaders, their pay, and their terms.

ASHLEY

Guess the writers of the constitution saw the pitfalls of power pretty clearly.

REAGAN

Right! Which is also why our constitution provides for these three branches of government.

(Points to his branches)

All ingeniously designed to keep the power of government perfectly balanced. (He staggers a bit)

ASHLEY

Which is more than I can say for you. Have you been drinking?

REAGAN

Of course not! I'm not 21 yet.

ASHLEY

That would be a crime in this state according to...

REAGAN

(Pats himself on top of his hat)

State's rights! The 10th! But even if I did commit a crime, the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Amendments say I would be entitled to due process of the law,

(hits gavel)

a speedy and public trial by a jury of my peers - wanna sit in? - and trial in the same state where I committed the crime -

(sings off key))

'California, here I come...'
Without cruel and unusual punishment.

ASHLEY

Ok, listening to you sing *is* cruel and unusual punishment. Especially in that funky hat...

(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
 (starts to lift up his
 hat)

What are you hiding under there,
 anyway?

REAGAN
 (Pushing her hand away)

Hey, now, watch it. The 4th
 Amendment says I am free from
 unreasonable searches. (Wounded) And
 if you don't appreciate my golden
 state tonsils, you're free not to
 listen.

ASHLEY
 (Aside) Some freedoms are more
 precious than others.

REAGAN
 (Cheering up) In fact, our
 constitution says you're free to do
 just about anything that doesn't
 harm another. (Holding Bible)
 Worship where you want, (holding up
 map) Live where you like.
 (Referring to ammo belt) You're
 free to own and carry guns, work
 wherever you want - for the pay you
 want...

ASHLEY
 (Picking up the Income Tax
 Code stack of papers)

Pay income taxes whether I want to
 or not...

REAGAN
 Oh yeah. 16th Amendment. Not my
 favorite...

ASHLEY
 Me either. Hope taxes don't keep
 going up. Pretty soon we'll be
 giving away everything we earned!

REAGAN
 Nope. Constitution says we can't
 have that.
 (Showing her the rope on
 his wrist)
 (MORE)

REAGAN (CONT'D)

Slavery was abolished with the 13th Amendment.

ASHLEY

Good thing. Hey, look at the time. You're gonna be late for your ...uh ..."party."

REAGAN

So you don't think it'll be any fun, huh?

ASHLEY

(referring to Tax Code stack)

Well, if just one piece of legislature is *this* big--

(thuds the stack on the table)

--the Constitution holding all the freedoms and rights you're talking about must take up an entire *wing* of the National Archives Museum! Bo...ring. Who has time to read that?

REAGAN

(Pulls out a copy of the Pocket Constitution)

You do, young lady!

ASHLEY

(Astonished to see how small it is) Huh?! Wow....

REAGAN

You *all* have time to read it. Amazingly, everything I talked about - and more - is written in this one little booklet. Your Founding Fathers were -

ASHLEY

Genius!

REAGAN
Yes, they were!

THE END

- ALTERNATE ENDING -

ASHLEY
Who has time to read all that?

(Enter GEORGE WASHINGTON,
carrying copies of the
Pocket Constitution)

GEORGE WASHINGTON
You do, young lady!

ASHLEY AND REAGAN
(Astonished to see him) Huh?!
Wow....

GEORGE WASHINGTON
You *all* have time to read it.
Amazingly, everything this young
man talked about - and more - is
written in this one little booklet.
Your Founding Fathers were -

ASHLEY AND REAGAN
Genius!

GEORGE WASHINGTON
If I do say so myself...

(Ashley, Reagan and George Washington pass out booklets)

THE END