



Set in present-day Washington, D.C., *House of Cards* is the story of Frank “Francis” Underwood, a Democrat from South Carolina’s 5th congressional district and House Majority Whip who, after being passed over for appointment as Secretary of State, initiates an elaborate plan to get himself into a position of greater power, aided by his wife, Claire Underwood. The series deals primarily with themes of ruthless pragmatism, manipulation and power.

season 1 Chapter 2

Francis and Doug plan to frame Secretary of State nominee, Michael Kern. Meanwhile, Zoe's popularity at the Washington Herald continues to grow.

Bob: Vasquez must be sh*tting herself. Sh*tting herself while Walker is sh*tting himself, then shoveling his sh*t on her sh*t.

Davis: Bob, I'm planning on eating.

Bob: Do we have a back-up on the [docket](#)?

Davis: You're on that, right, Frank?

Frank: I'm working with my staff...



Bob: The **Republicans** are gonna ram this up our ass. I would if I was them.



Davis: Well, even if we **squeak** it **through** the House, watch them mangle it in the Senate.

Bob: Or **filibuster** it.

Davis: Well, sure, if it looks anything like this.

Bob: I don't know why Walker's trying to **tackle a charging elephant**. It's madness.

vocabulary

1. **docket** /d<awe>-kuht/ (noun)

- a calendar of cases awaiting action in a court

Ex: *This docket will go to the Supreme Court.*

2. **Republicans** /ruh-puhb-luh-kuhns/ (noun)

- a person advocating or supporting republican government

Ex: *The Republicans' votes determine who run the government.*

3. **squeak** (something) **through**

- to manage just to get something accepted or approved

Ex: *I squeaked my job application through at the last minute.*

4. **filibuster** /fi-luh-buhs-tuhr/ (verb)

- to obstruct or delay legislative action, especially by making prolonged speeches

Ex: *The opposition are filibustering.*

5. **tackle a charging elephant**

- deal with a difficult or an impossible task

Ex: *Convincing him is like tackling a charging elephant.*

Discussion Questions

1. Do you talk behind people's back (insultingly) or do you know someone who does?
2. Do you also get squeamish at the sight or sound of anything unpleasant?
3. Will you still squeak something through even if you know that it'll just get disregarded in the end?
4. Is talking a lot to delay something important your strategy as well?
5. How willing are you to devote your resources to something difficult?