

VERTIGO

ISSUE 58

WARREN ELLIS
September 2002

DARICK ROBERTSON

RODNEY RAMOS

2.50

can 4.25

SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS

LATE EDITION * * * *

TRANSMETROPOLITAN

Having... with a kind of... else of the notion of a new venue



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keeping his
promise
to America

WARREN ELLIS WRITES AND DARICK ROBERTSON & RODNEY RAMOS DRAW

STRAIGHT TO HELL.

CLEM ROBINS, LETTERER
DARICK ROBERTSON, COVER




NATHAN EYRING, COLOR & SEPS
ZACHARY RAU, EDITOR

TRANSMETROPOLITAN CREATED BY

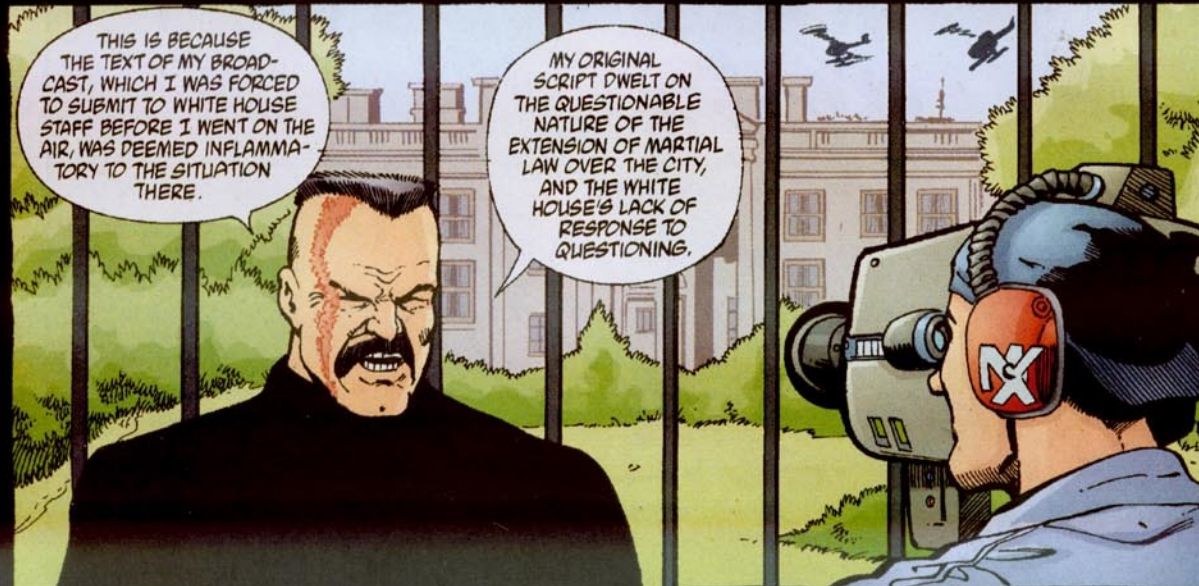
WARREN ELLIS & DARICK ROBERTSON

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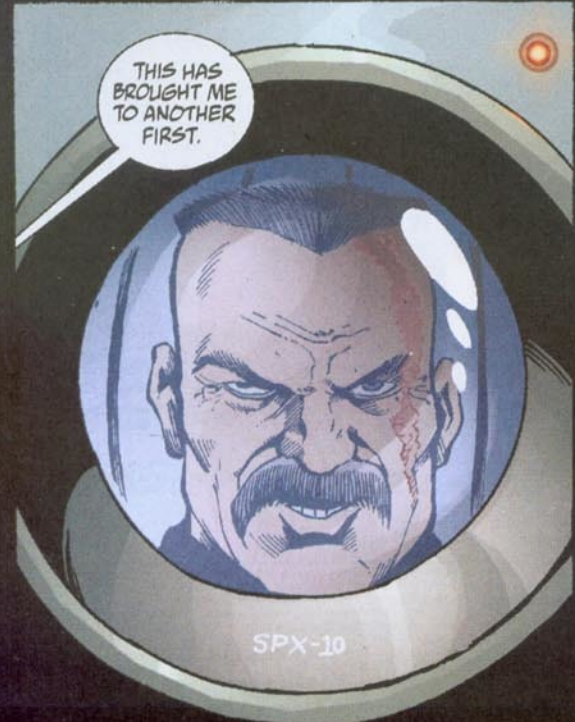


MY NAME IS
IS ROBERT McX, AND
FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN MY CAREER, I AM
NOT BROADCASTING
TO MY CITY.



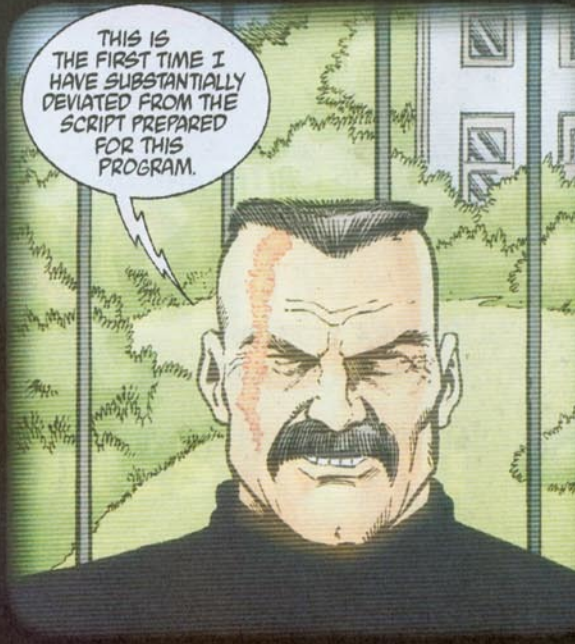
THIS IS BECAUSE
THE TEXT OF MY BROAD-
CAST, WHICH I WAS FORCED
TO SUBMIT TO WHITE HOUSE
STAFF BEFORE I WENT ON THE
AIR, WAS DEEMED INFLAMMA-
TORY TO THE SITUATION
THERE.

MY ORIGINAL
SCRIPT DWELT ON
THE QUESTIONABLE
NATURE OF THE
EXTENSION OF MARTIAL
LAW OVER THE CITY,
AND THE WHITE
HOUSE'S LACK OF
RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONING.



THIS HAS
BROUGHT ME
TO ANOTHER
FIRST.

SPX-10



THIS IS
THE FIRST TIME I
HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY
DEVIATED FROM THE
SCRIPT PREPARED
FOR THIS
PROGRAM.

A LONG TIME AGO, ONE WRITER WARNED US THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS A MAN WHO BELIEVED IN NOTHING SAVE THAT HE SHOULD BE PRESIDENT.

THAT HE SHOULD BE IN CHARGE, AND THAT NOTHING ELSE MATTERED.



WE HAVE PROOF OF THIS, TOO LATE.

IT IS SAID THAT NOBODY BECOMES A POLITICIAN JUST TO PLAY WITH THE LIVES OF OTHERS.



PRESIDENT CALLAHAN

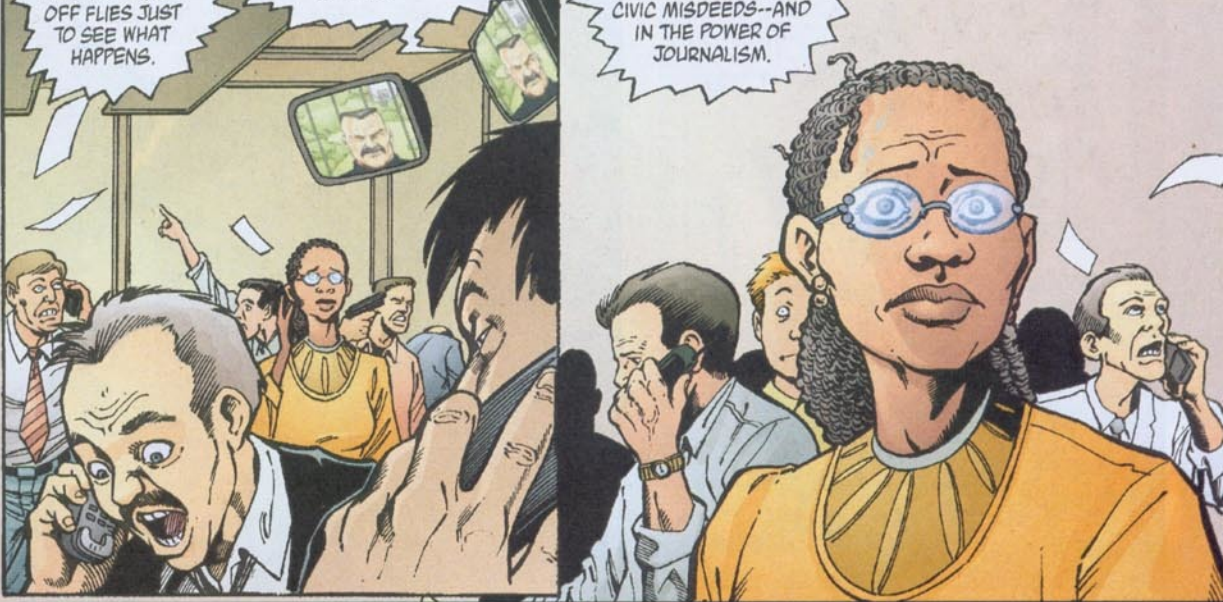
IF WE VALUED HISTORY MORE, WE WOULD HAVE SEEN THIS FOR THE LIE IT IS.



SOME PEOPLE WANT TO RULE JUST TO RULE. SOME PEOPLE PICK THE WINGS OFF FLIES JUST TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

WE ARE BEING TOLD THAT THE RECLAMATION ZONE IS A HOTBED OF VIOLENT DISSIDENT. WE'VE SEEN NOTHING OF THIS.

WE HAVE, HOWEVER, SEEN IN THE CITY A RESURGENCE IN THE AWARENESS OF CIVIC MISDEEDS--AND IN THE POWER OF JOURNALISM.



A CITY THAT WAS A CRUCIAL STAGE IN THE ELECTION OF THIS PRESIDENT. A CITY WHERE THE BODIES ARE BURIED, LITERALLY.

THE WHITE HOUSE CONTINUES TO OFFER NO COMMENT ON THE EVENTS UNFOLDING IN MY CITY.

BUT I HAVE A COMMENT FOR THEM.

STOP THIS.

ANSWER YOUR COUNTRY.

EXPLAIN WHAT WE'RE SEEING.


TODAY, IN THE CITY, THERE ARE ONLY THREE PEOPLE STILL ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS.

THOSE PEOPLE ARE CHANNON YARROW, YELENA ROSSINI AND SPIDER JERUSALEM.

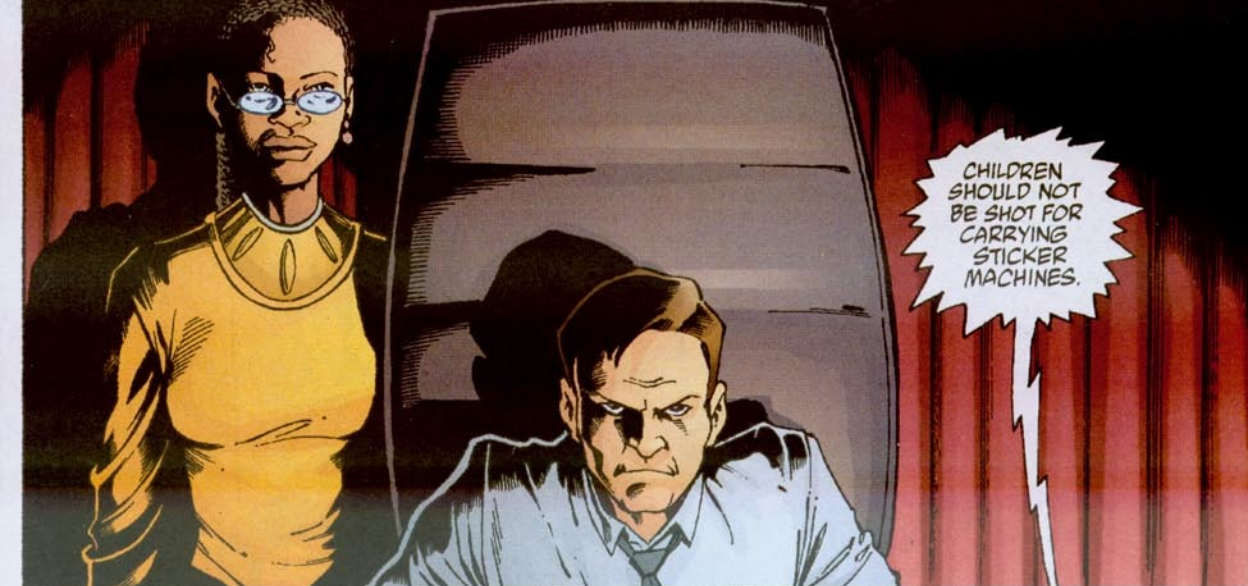
I HAVE HEARD THAT THEY ARE CURRENTLY ON THE RUN FROM GOVERNMENT TROOPS.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE.

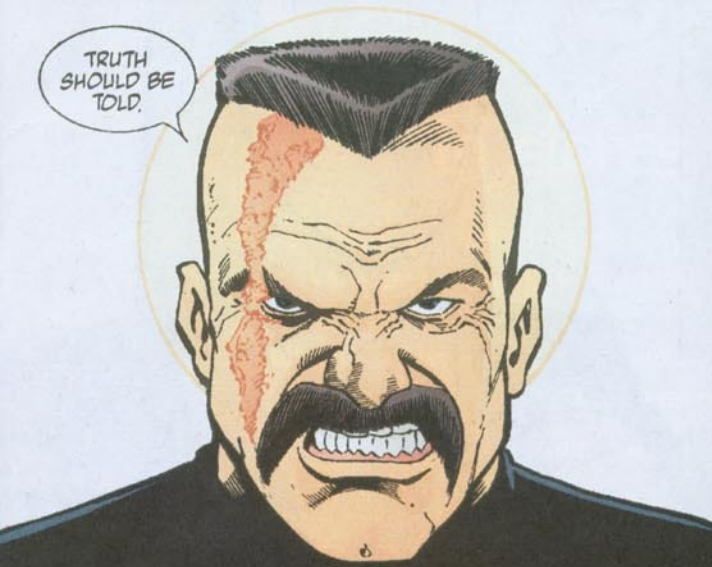
THEIR WORK IS UNCONVENTIONAL, BUT IT IS INCREASINGLY BACKED BY EVIDENCE THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, ASKS AWKWARD QUESTIONS.



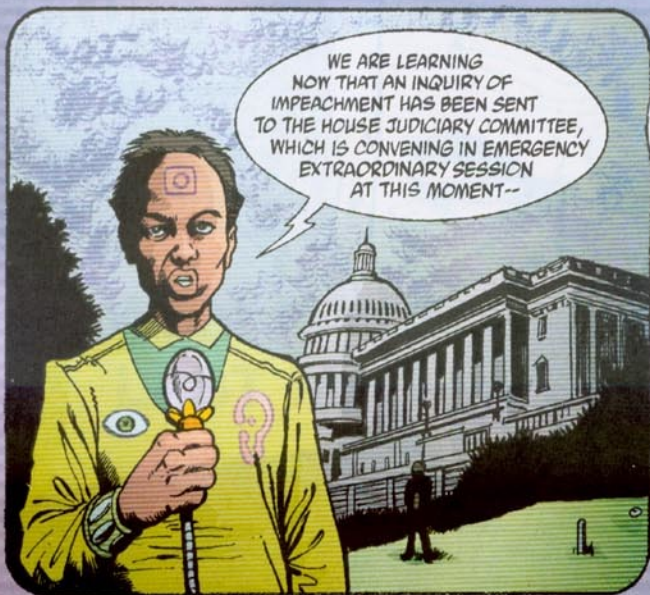
AND IN
A COUNTRY WHOSE
REVOLUTIONARY AGENDA
IS DEFINED BY FREE SPEECH,
THE PEOPLE'S ABILITY TO ASK
INFORMED QUESTIONS
SHOULD BE ENSHRINED
BY A PRESIDENT, NOT
VILIFIED.



CHILDREN
SHOULD NOT
BE SHOT FOR
CARRYING
STICKER
MACHINES.



TRUTH
SHOULD BE
TOLD.



WE ARE LEARNING NOW THAT AN INQUIRY OF IMPEACHMENT HAS BEEN SENT TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, WHICH IS CONVENING IN EMERGENCY EXTRAORDINARY SESSION AT THIS MOMENT--



--FIGURE WITH ALAN SCHACT AND THE MAN WHO KILLED VITA SEVERN IDENTIFIED BY WHITE HOUSE SOURCES AS FRANKLIN CALLEY, SECRET SERVICE--



--FBI TODAY ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO OPEN A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE CRASH WHICH KILLED THE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY--

--EIGHTEEN SEPARATE LAWSUITS HAVE BEEN FILED AGAINST THE PRESIDENT AS OF THE TOP OF THIS HOUR.

THIS IS TIM LEHNERER FOR USAFEED ALL ACROSS AMERICA--
--EXCEPT FOR THE CITY.



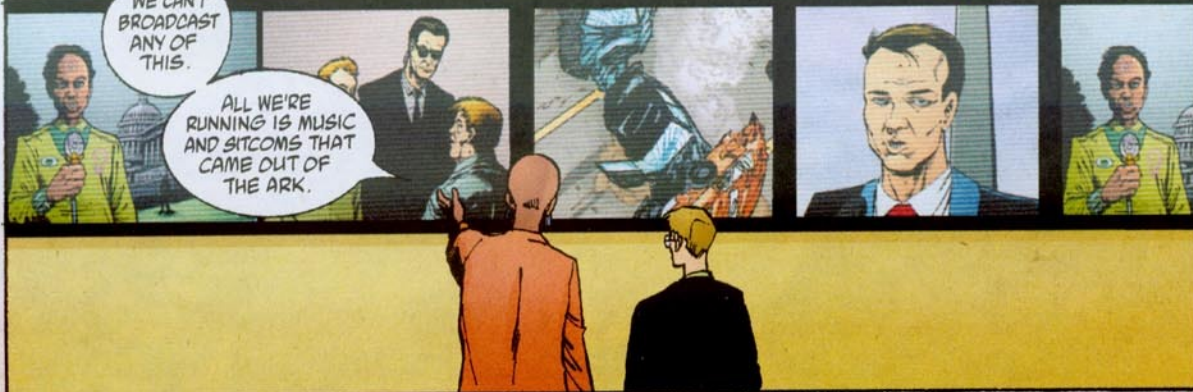
USAfeed

SPKKE

THIS IS
INSANE.

WE CAN'T
BROADCAST
ANY OF
THIS.

ALL WE'RE
RUNNING IS MUSIC
AND SITCOMS THAT
CAME OUT OF
THE ARK.



WE'VE GOT
GOVERNMENT TROOPS
IN THE BUILDING AND
ENOUGH D-NOTICE PAPER-
WORK TO WRAP THE
BUILDING IN...

THIS IS THE WORLD
HAPPENING OUT THERE. THIS
IS THE STORY, THIS IS DIRECTLY
ABOUT US--

--AND
WE CAN'T
TELL ANY-
ONE?



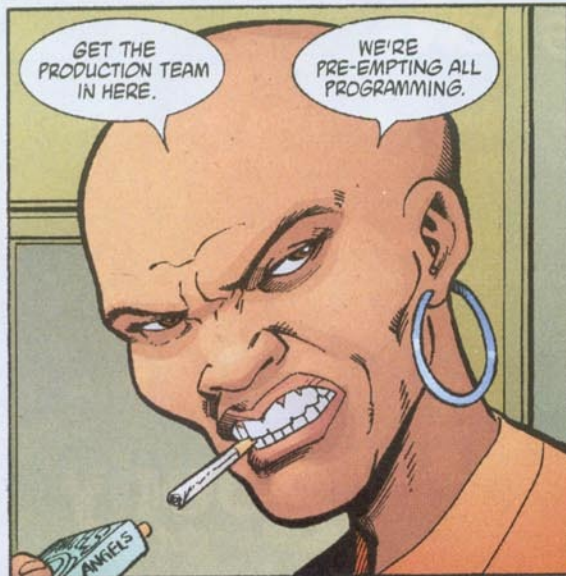
THIS IS
FUCKED.

RATINGS
ARE STILL
GOOD...



GET THE
PRODUCTION TEAM
IN HERE.

WE'RE
PRE-EMPTING ALL
PROGRAMMING.



NO, NO
WAY IN
HELL.

WE'LL GET
RAPED AND SHOT
AND RAPED
AGAIN.



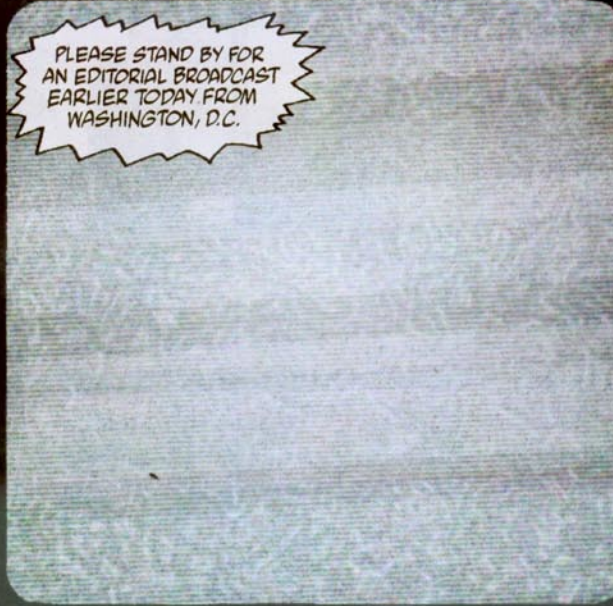


YOU DO AS I DAMN WELL SAY OR I'M BUYING A STRAP-ON JUST FOR YOU.

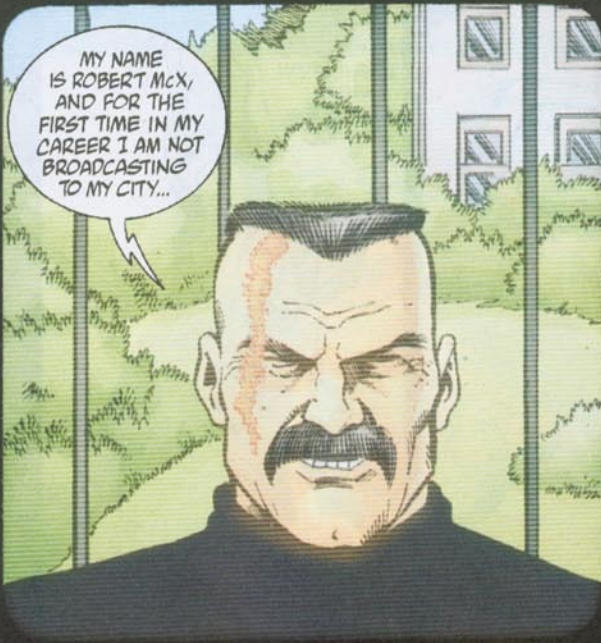
ONE WITH SPIKES.



IT'S BURGER TIME!



PLEASE STAND BY FOR AN EDITORIAL BROADCAST EARLIER TODAY FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.



MY NAME IS ROBERT McX, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY CAREER I AM NOT BROADCASTING TO MY CITY...



THAT'S IT. ALL THE STUFF WE GOT FROM D.C. PUT IT ON THE FEEDSITES TOO.

WE ARE SO DOOMED.

WHAT'RE THEY GOING TO DO, SUCK THE SIGNALS BACK OUT OF EVERYONE'S TV SCREENS? IT'S ALREADY DONE.



LOOK, TROOPS
IN THE BUILDING.
EVERYWHERE. I CAN'T
DO A THING.

YOU SPINELESS
BASTARD. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO
BE DOING A JOB HERE.



EXCUSE
ME.



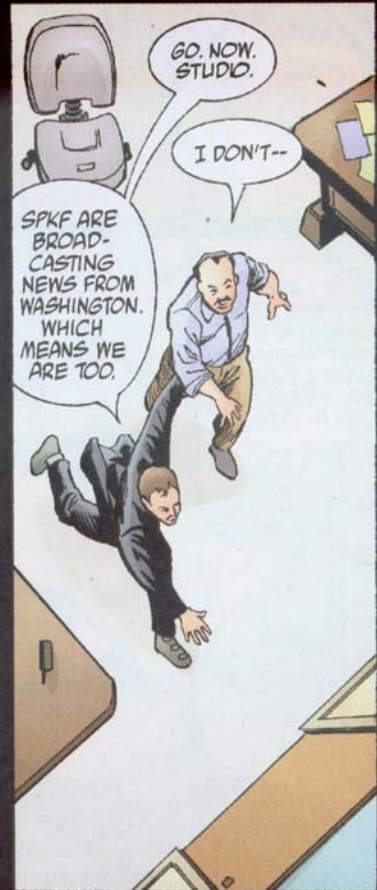
YES?

MIKE,
PLEASE, I'M IN
A MEETING
HERE.

--NO, I AM
NOT GOING TO TURN
THE TV ON.



WHAT?



GO. NOW.
STUDIO.

I DON'T--

SPKF ARE
BROAD-
CASTING
NEWS FROM
WASHINGTON.
WHICH
MEANS WE
ARE TOO.



WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO? SHOOT US ALL?

WE'RE GOING LIVE IN TEN, NINE, EIGHT...



FUCK THIS!

OPEN UP THE FEEDSITES! PUT OUT EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT ON THE UNIVERSITY SHOOTINGS!

SCREW THE TROOPS! THIS USED TO BE A FUCKING NEWS-PAPER!



WE'VE GOT THE SHOTS OF THEM ARRESTING OSCAR ROSSINI, BOSS. IS THE LINE FOR SENDING THEM IN STILL SAFE?

THE TROOPS NEVER EVEN NOTICED THEM, OR US WORKING. SEND THE SHOTS NOW.

WE'RE GOING LIVE WITH THE FEED-ONLY EDITION OF THE WORD IN FIVE MINUTES.

LET 'EM FUCKING FIRE ME.

-- FOOTAGE FROM THE SCENE CLEARLY SHOWS A SOLDIER SHOOTING TO KILL AT THE GLIMPSE OF A MOMENTARILY-CONCEALED STICKER-MAKER --



-- PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS ALAN SCHACT AND A SECRET SERVICE AGENT SPEAKING WITH THE MAN WHO LATER ASSASSINATED VITA SEVERN --



CITYWIDE NEWS, ON THE HOUR.

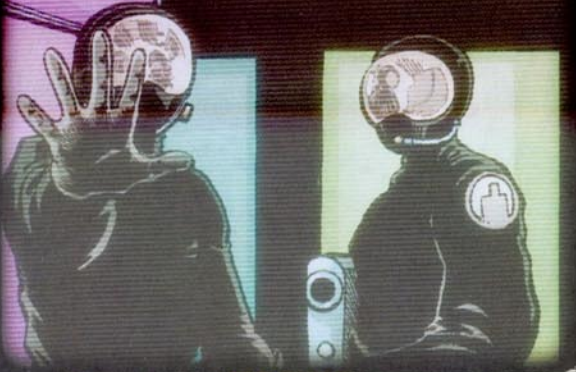
FIRST, WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.

BRING THE CAMERA AROUND, BOB.



THESE PEOPLE ARE HERE TO STOP US TELLING YOU USEFUL THINGS.

ALL NEWS SERVICES IN THE CITY ARE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY TROOPS FROM THE MARTIAL LAW DETACHMENT.



AND NOW: FOOTAGE OF THEM KILLING UNARMED STUDENTS.





WE'RE HEARING THAT THERE IS SOME KIND OF MOTION IN THE WEST WING NOW...







WE ARE NOT TURNING INTO PUNCHING BAGS FOR YOU PEOPLE AGAIN.

THE TRANSIENT COMMUNITY HAS LIVED THROUGH THAT ONCE.

IT WILL NOT HAPPEN TWICE.



RETURN TO YOUR HOMES.

NO.



THIS IS OUR MOMENT.

THIS IS MY MOMENT.

WE ARE GOING TO DRIVE YOU OUT.

AND EVERYONE IS GOING TO SEE IT.

TRANSIENTS DON'T BACK DOWN. I DON'T BACK DOWN.



I WIN.



I DON'T SEE ANY CAMERAS.



IT APPEARS THAT THE PRESIDENT IS LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN A PRESS RELEASE OR ITINERARY--



MISTER PRESIDENT

FUCK CRIPPLES

MISTER PRESIDENT

KILL YOUR WIFE

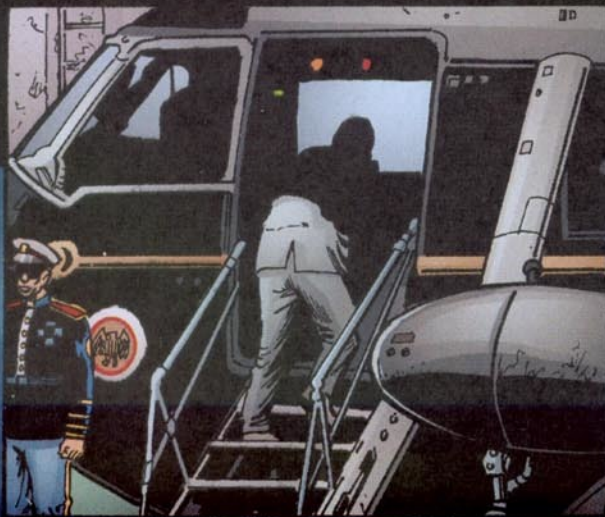
POLICE STATE

DID YOU

GUILTY OF EVERY CRIME







WITH UNPRECEDENTED SPEED, THE COMMITTEE HAS DETERMINED THAT CONGRESS IMMEDIATELY BEGIN DISCOVERY PROCEDURES TOWARD IMPEACHMENT OF THE PRESIDENT--

--AS IT EMERGES THAT SECRET SERVICE AGENT FRANKLIN CAULEY'S BANK RECORDS SHOW UNUSUAL PAYMENTS DATING FROM HIS INITIAL ATTACHMENT TO PRESIDENT CALLAHAN WHEN HE WAS A CANDIDATE.



SOURCES INDICATE THAT CAULEY ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DETACHED FROM WHITE HOUSE DUTY FOR SEVERAL MYSTERIOUS JOURNEYS TO THE CITY--

IF THE SMILER HAD VITA SEVERN MURDERED, THIS CITY WILL BE SET ON FIRE.





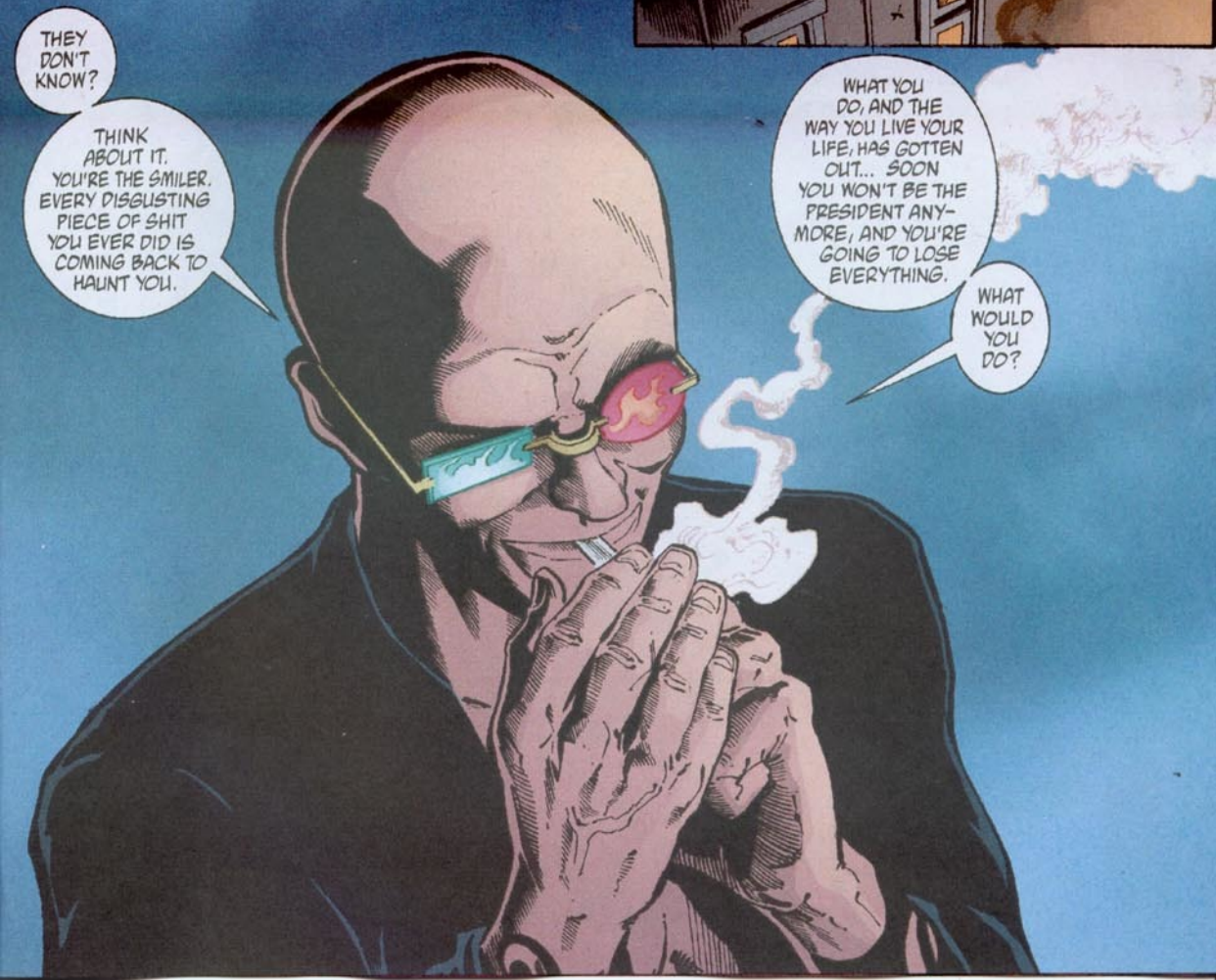
IT'S
ALREADY ON
FIRE.



WHO
KNEW THEY
REMEMBERED
HOW TO
REBEL?

CHRIST,
LOOK AT THAT...
HORRIBLE.

HEY, HE'S
IN A HELICOPTER,
AND THEY DON'T KNOW
WHERE HE'S
GOING...



THEY
DON'T
KNOW?

THINK
ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE THE SMILER.
EVERY DISGUSTING
PIECE OF SHIT
YOU EVER DID IS
COMING BACK TO
HAUNT YOU.

WHAT YOU
DO, AND THE
WAY YOU LIVE YOUR
LIFE, HAS GOTTEN
OUT... SOON
YOU WON'T BE THE
PRESIDENT ANY-
MORE, AND YOU'RE
GOING TO LOSE
EVERYTHING.

WHAT
WOULD
YOU
DO?

I'D
KILL
YOU.

I'D COME
HERE AND I'D
WATCH THIS CITY
BURN TO THE
GROUND AND I'D
KILL YOU.

YEAH.

