

The campaign bus of Prelate came to a halt outside a soup kitchen in New Orleans. As the driver motioned they were there Prelate and his wife, Christine, finished their conversation about the state of the campaign's finances. Prelate's campaign manager came over, told him the details of the other events planned in New Orleans, and wished him luck. Christine and Prelate exited the bus holding hands as he thanked her again for doing this. A small group had gathered including the press who were rapidly taking pictures and the owner of the soup kitchen.

Prelate: Hello everyone how are we all doing? It's a pleasure to be in The Big Easy with all you fine folks. Of course we're happy the press is here so there is at least one job hated more than mine haha. Let's not waste anymore time and get to this.

Christine: Hi, you must be the owner, I'm Christine and this is Prelate. How can we help today?

Owner: Thank you for coming by real nice of you, let's go inside and I'll find something for you.

The pair made their way inside, shaking hands with the assembled crowd while followed by several others.

Prelate: It's really great to see all of you here, I want to thank you for your efforts and volunteering. There are no values like Dixie values which always include taking care of our fellow man. And to all the young people here, I think this is such a positive experience to learn about helping people and offering a hand. So nice to see, you know that really is the spirit of America. I think the government needs to stay out of this area and not start mandating all these rules decent folks like you gotta follow for doing this. They should provide some incentives and otherwise move on. I'm a big believer in private charities like these. Alright though lets serve some food.

The owner smiled and motioned to Christine before pointing to Prelate and then the kitchen.

Owner: I'm sure you won't mind helping out with the serving Mrs. Christine. As for you Mr. Would Be Senator, let's have a look at them dishes out back.

Christine: Of course, no problem at all. Bye dear, do your best. *Christine laughed and gave Prelate a kiss before putting an apron on.*

Prelate: Sure thing, happy to help wherever I can. *Prelate found his way out back and began to wash the dishes with the press and others watching. He began to have conversations with the other volunteers while working.*

Volunteer A: So tell me, how do you think we prevent people from needing to come here?

Prelate: Yeah it's a tough question but I think we need to continue to provide opportunities for people to lift themselves out of this cycle. There are really a lot of aid programs and people

willing to help but part of the problem is messaging has been so poor. People don't even know about half these available programs and you can hardly blame them - they just exist on some statute deep in a government office. One way I think we could fix that is by implementing a lot of those programs on more local levels instead of emanating from Washington all the time.

Volunteer A: I guess my worry is that all we ever hear about is Republicans wanting to cut programs that help the poor and hell, even the non-poor. Seems like you guys are always wanting to help the rich.

Prelate: Unfortunately, there is a lot of truth to that and my party has been focused on big business for too long. Small business is the real jobs creator in America and that's where we should direct our energies. I think our friends in the media who of course always report accurately may have made a mistake or two on this subject haha. I'm interested in reforming these programs to ensure they remain around and solvent long after I'm gone and to provide incentives for people to not stay on them forever. Republicans helping the rich is too true in many cases but I ensure you, as I said numerous times, that I will not support any tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. They're doing just fine and will continue to do so.

Volunteer B: That all sounds well and good but how can you get anything done in a divided congress? 538 says the chance of your party retaking the house or senate is small and even if you did there is a democratic president.

Prelate: For sure there is a divide in government but that is not insurmountable. All of us need to come together and just get work done, just actually try. The two sides hardly talk to one another anymore but if they actually sat down and tried everyone would be amazed at what you could get done. I've never shied away from working with my colleagues in Dixie who aren't Republicans and that attitude will not change in Washington. You never compromise your core principles but my view is that you can't always get 100% of what you want, in politics or life.

Volunteer C: One of the things I find most worrying is the donations all you politicians receive. I mean no disrespect Mr. Prelate but think about it, who do you work for? You work for the guy who pays you and all of you take so much money and from a lot of rich people. I mean, in some cases it's not even clear who from.

Prelate: Over 90% of Americans think money corrupts politics and if there's one thing I've learned in this job it's that the American people have pretty good instincts. So in Dixie I've introduced something called the SPOTLIGHT Act that addresses this issue. Now, anyone running for office, not just people already holding office, will have to reveal every single donation they get. It doesn't matter if it's \$2 or \$20,000 they have to disclose it and reveal where it came from. They'll file monthly reports so that everyone can see who they get money from, there are no more secrets in this process anymore. For right now the legislation would only apply to Dixie but I'm hoping to introduce and pass it in the senate as well.

Owner: Prelate

Prelate: Yes Ma'am?

Owner: You missed a spot *She smiled and motioned to a serving tray*

Prelate laughed and smiled before getting back to work. **Prelate:** Thanks, appreciate it.

The conversation continued along with the work until the food service was over. Prelate and Christine remained to clean up before exiting and returning to the campaign bus after thanking the owner and others present.