

. Herb

And I may even buy you a drink, (PUTS ARM AROUND EDNA) Here's what we do. We drop your last name and run you as EDNA! Like Cher or Madonna. You hear what I'm saying?

AS THEY EXIT STAGE LEFT. BUTTONS AND FRED TURN TO EACH OTHER

Fred

How long has it been, Buttons? It seems like a hundred years.

Buttons

A hundred years? No, I was having two molars capped. That would make it about eighteen months Which by the way you said you'd help pay for. The Caps?

Fred

I thought you had insurance?

Buttons

I have a deductible (OPENS MOUTH AND POINTS) Actually, he waved the deductible. What are you doing here, anyway?

Fred

I'm the Governor. I'm here to eulogize Ed and give the brave man a medal.

Buttons

You're the Governor? I thought you were in Real Estate.

Fred

I was in Real Estate and then I got elected Governor. You didn't know?

Buttons

If I did, I forgot. You know how my memory is. What are you staring at, Bunny?

Fred

I'm staring at you, Buttons. There's a reason that fate brought us together again.

Buttons

Yeah, Ed's dead.

Fred

No, it's bigger than that. Don't you feel it? I feel it.

Buttons

Freddie, I'm feeling nothing. Maybe it's your arthritis?

Start Side
Buttons
Fred

Fred

You must feel something. I mean how often do you find the love of your life in a funeral home?
Why didn't you call me, Buttons?

Buttons

Because you said you had a little boy you couldn't leave.

Fred

That's right. Little Wally.

Buttons

Wally? His name is Wally?

Fred

What's the matter?

Buttons

Nothing, Freddie. Not a thing. I'll bet little Wally's all grown up now isn't he? How old would he be? Four? Five?

Fred

Actually, I think he's twenty eight.

Buttons

Twenty eight. They grow up quickly don't they? So, are you still a widower, Freddie?

Fred

Pretty much. Some. Not a lot.

Buttons

So little Wally doesn't have a mother?

Fred

Actually, Wally's mother is still alive.

Buttons

Wally's mother is still alive and you're a widower?

Fred

It's very rare.

Buttons

I'll bet.

Fred
You could be a big influence on Wally's life, Buttons.

Buttons
I was thinking the same thing.

Fred
I need you, Buttons. Not for me. That would be selfish. But for little Wally. You could give my little boy the love he needs.

Buttons
I was thinking the same thing.

Fred
And he could use a friend if he's appointed to Ed's seat.

Buttons
Wally may take Ed's seat?

Fred
I hope so. He's young, he's vibrant, he's...

Buttons
Oh God, is he vibrant?! I was hoping he'd be vibrant. (PAUSE) But you never know.] end
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Fred
He knows the issues.

Buttons
Issues?

Fred
Yeah, taxes, the environment, education. Stuff like that.

Buttons
Education?

Fred
Johnny can't read, Buttons.

Buttons
He can't?

Fred
No. We've spent millions and he can't read.