

He warbles a pathetic tune. The singers cringe.

MAGGIE  
Preach, brother, don't screech!

HIRAM  
(feigns being shot down)  
Oww!

AMERICA  
That was some call to arms, Hiram  
Jackson. A veiled stump speech?

Hiram groans; he gets this a lot.

BENNIE  
You're about the most listened-to voice  
in the country. Take that sermon to  
Congress and you'll push through the  
Civil Rights Bill.

"FREDERICK DOUGLASS"

5/23/22

A brisk passerby - FREDERICK DOUGLASS - agrees.

START → DOUGLASS

He's right, preacher; take office and  
get those weathervane Moderates off  
the fence! I want news of a campaign.

Awestruck, Bennie chases after Douglass.

BENNIE  
M-Mr. Douglass, my name's Bennie --

DOUGLASS  
(winces)  
I'd stick to singing, kid. END

Douglass exits. Ouch. Bennie sulks, but White lifts his chin.

WHITE  
Benjamin Holmes, you're a powerful,  
passionate communicator. You'll find  
your voice and the people will listen.

ANGLE ON LOUDIN, ACROSS THE CHURCHYARD

He's angrily chewing his wife and sons out about something. We PAN  
to Georgia looking on. If we're not mistaken, she's grinning.

ANGLE ON ELLA

She exits the church and belatedly joins the choir. As she does --

STEAL AWAY