

Henry VI Part 2 abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

Statesmanship

Situation: With the Cardinal, Buckingham and Somerset after Gloucester's scalp, Salisbury, a Neville, tries to move towards the "common good of the country," believing Warwick (his son) and York (his brother-in-law) also support his country-first position.

SOMERSET: Cousin of Buckingham, let us watch the haughty Cardinal. If Gloucester be displaced, he'll be Protector.

BUCKINGHAM: Or thou or I, Somerset, will be Protector, despite Duke Humphrey or the Cardinal.

Buckingham and Somerset exit.

Salisbury to Warwick and York

As they jostle with this king at the helm,
Doth behoove us to labor for the realm,
These laboring for their own preferment.
Gloucester bears himself as a gentleman,
Yet we've seen the haughty Cardinal bent
More like a soldier than as a churchman.
Warwick, my son, generous as thou art
With thy plainness, thou hast won a great part
Of the commons' favor, excepting good
Duke Humphrey. And valiant brother York, you,
With late exploits done in France, hath withstood
Ambition. For the public good and to
Cherish Humphrey's deeds, let's together band
While they do tend the profit of the land.

WARWICK: So God help Warwick as he loves the land and common profit of his country!

YORK ASIDE: And so says York, for he hath greatest cause.