Does Wolsey lose his nerve?

With the Pope as prisoner, Wolsey wanted to assume the power of pope and call a council of leading archbishops to decide on the divorce without the input of the Pope himself. In order to do this he needed the support of the French Cardinals in Aignon but the French did not agree. Next was to have the case heard in England so Clement sent his legate Cardinal Campeggio, there were many delaying tactics used here.

Meanwhile Catherine has many important supporters such as Thomas Moore and Bishop John Fischer. She also insists that she was a virgin on her wedding night to Henry VIII.

The discovery of the Spanish brief delayed the trial further.

Wolsey is then sacked for praemunire as he was answering first to a foreign power (The Pope above Henry VIII).