

MORGANTHAU

Did anybody see the Washington Post this morning?

(HE opens the paper on the table and THEY ALL begin to read it)

start

ROOSEVELT

(The eternal optimist)

My friends, I say again, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

(CABINET just looks at HIM. THEY are silent)

ICKES

Franklin, you've already been elected.

ROOSEVELT

(Trying again)

Every cloud has a silver lining?

(CABINET is quiet)

You're never fully dressed without a smile.

(CABINET mutters. MARINE GUARD enters from the wing with a calling card)

HOWE

(To ROOSEVELT, handing him the card)

Oliver Warbucks and friend, Franklin.

ROOSEVELT

Thank you, Louis.* Show them in.

(Pronounced LOUIE)*

HOWE

Oliver...

(WARBUCKS enters with ANNIE almost hiding behind him)

ROOSEVELT

Ah, Oliver, good of you to have come.

WARBUCKS

Good morning, Mr. President.

(ANNIE peeks out at FDR)



ROOSEVELT

Well, who is this we have here?

WARBUCKS

Mr. President, this is my good friend Annie.

ROOSEVELT

Annie.

WARBUCKS

She so wanted to meet you that I couldn't resist bringing her along. Just to say hello.

ROOSEVELT

Of course. The little girl who sang so beautifully on the radio last night.

WARBUCKS

Annie, this is President Roosevelt.

ANNIE

(Shaking hands with ROOSEVELT)

How do you do, President Roosevelt.

ROOSEVELT

How do you do, Annie? You're as lovely as you sounded on the radio.

ANNIE

Thank you, President Roosevelt.

ROOSEVELT

(Turning back in his wheelchair to the CABINET MEMBERS)

Well, shall we begin?

WARBUCKS

(Ushering ANNIE out)

Annie, if you'll wait outside, I'll...

ROOSEVELT

No, no, Oliver, let Annie stay.

(To a befuddled ICKES)

Having a child on hand will keep us on our best behavior.



WARBUCKS

Thank you, Mr. President. Annie.

(WARBUCKS ushers ANNIE to the conference table)

ROOSEVELT

(To ICKES)

Harold, I don't want to hear even so much as a "gosh" out of you.

HULL

Franklin, a child?

ROOSEVELT

Now, Oliver, since you speak for those happy few Americans who have any money left, I'd like to begin with your views on matters.

WARBUCKS

(Standing)

Mr. President, in the words of Calvin Coolidge,

(The CABINET has heard this one before. THEY drone the quote with HIM)

"The business of this country is business." Yes! And for the good of you, the country, Wall Street *and me*, we've got to get my factories open and the workers back to work.

PERKINS

According to my latest figures, there are now fifteen million Americans out of work and nearly fifty million with no visible means of support.

HULL

Mr. President, if I may say so, unemployment is not our worst problem. The dispatches from Germany are becoming more and more disturbing each day. There could be war.

ICKES

Germany, hell! People are starving in this country.

HULL

Harold I know that, but in the long run ...we're not...

ROOSEVELT

Cordell, for people who are starving there is no long run.



MORGANTHAU

The trouble is it's all happening at once. The stock market has taken another nose dive ...

ICKES

Sit-down strikes, riots...

PERKINS

Floods, dust storms ...

ROOSEVELT

And the FBI still hasn't caught Al Capone.

(ALL look at WARBUCKS)

Well, at least we're all agreed on one thing. The situation is hopeless and getting worse.

(CABINET turns and begins to talk amongst THEMSELVES)

WARBUCKS

Henry, I'd like to see those figures.

ANNIE

(As MORGANTHAU brings the paper to WARBUCKS, ANNIE speaks the following not as a lyric, but as dialogue)

The sun'll come out tomorrow. Bet your bottom dollar that tomorrow there'll be ...

ICKES

Shh, quiet, little girl.

ROOSEVELT

(Admonishing ICKES)

Harold.

(To ANNIE)

What did you say, Annie?

(ANNIE looks to WARBUCKS, frightened)

No, that's all right. Go ahead, my dear. It's still a free country.

(WARBUCKS lifts ANNIE up to stand on her chair)

end

