

MONTY AUDITION

Monty: Afternoon, gentlemen.

All: Afternoon. / Monty. / Alright? *etc.*

Monty: Right, today we've got the ladies.

Hubble: Woooo!

Monty: One shop steward, Connie, she's alright, she knows and respects the procedures, and er . . . one of the trouble makers.

Hubble: Are they fit?

Hopkins: Hubble, please!

Hubble: Just a joke.

Hopkins: They threatened to walk out yesterday, that is not a joke.

Macer: I'll have to lay off five thousand men if I don't get a continuous supply of Cortina seats.

Monty: We can park this in the grievance procedure. Connie was instrumental in setting up the grievance procedure, so she ain't gonna argue against it.

Hopkins: We can do what we like, then? They're under our thumbs.

Hubble: Ooh, Mucky.

Hopkins: Hubble! That remark is not worthy of a Personnel Director.

Hubble: Sorry, just a joke.

Monty: You're management, I'm union, but we're all men, and this is our world, the world of work. It's when we go home that we're in the dog house.

Macer: I hate going home.

(A beat of time. All three men drop their heads in a moment of tragic introspection.)

Monty: I'll go round them up.

Hubble: Woof! Woof!

(In the corridor, Connie and Rita are waiting for Monty.)

Monty: Now there's three of them and three of us, so it's a fair fight. Connie's done these meetings before. It's all collective agreements and procedures, so leave the talking to us, eh Rita?

Rita: I'll keep me mouth shut, I'm just making up the numbers.

Monty: Terrific!

(Monty turns and enters the room. This time the management stand.)

Monty: You know Connie Riley, shop steward, River Plant. This is Rita O'Grady, er . . . machinist. Rita, this is, Gregory Hubble, Personnel Director, Ron Macer, Production Manager and Jeremy Hopkins, Managing Director, Ford Dagenham.

Rita: Oh! Never met you before. Hello. Sorry. I'll shut up now!

Macer: The NUVB executive supported the job evaluation exercise.

Monty: True, but my members at the River Plant –

Hubble: – the girls.

Connie: Yes, the girls, are reluctant to sign it off.

Rita: Yeah. Sorry.

Hopkins: Fortunately, we have a grievance procedure now, partly due to your efforts in the past, Connie.

Connie: Yes. We do wish to register a formal grievance.

Hubble: We have no objections to grading grievance hearings being granted under the formerly agreed formal grievance procedure.

Monty: So you agree to grant the girls their grading grievance before the grading committee on the grounds that their grading grievance gripes can be grieved in the grievance procedure if they're grave enough.

Hubble: Granted.

Monty: Great. Grand. We're very grateful. Gregory.