

Excerpt 6: Mayor, Pulitzer, Bunsen, Snyder, Hannah

Note: some lines and speakers have been altered here to allow some roles more lines

SCENE FOUR: Pulitzer's Office & Cellar, Afternoon

(The MAYOR, SEITZ, BUNSEN, and PULITZER are in a heated discussion. KATHERINE sits, listening quietly.)

MAYOR

... but I've read your editorials, Mr. Pulitzer. How can you express so much sympathy for the trolley workers and yet have none for the newsies?

PULITZER

Because the trolley workers are striking for a fair contract. The newsies are striking against me!

MAYOR

I'd spare you this embarrassment if I could, but the burlesque house is private property.

BUNSEN

He can't order a raid without legal cause... Mr Mayor, would the fact that this rally is organised by an escaped convict be enough to shut it down?

MAYOR

An escaped convict?

PULITZER

A fugitive from one of your own institutions. A convicted thief, at large, reeking mischief on our law-abiding community.

(turns his desk chair around to reveal SNYDER and holds out the newspaper)

Mr. Snyder, which one is he?

SNYDER

(pointing to the photo)

That one there: Jack Kelly.

MAYOR

And how do you know this boy?

SNYDER

His is not a pleasant story. He was first sentenced to my Refuge for loitering and vagrancy, but his total disregard of authority has made him a frequent visitor.

MAYOR

You called him a thief and escaped convict.

SNYDER

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After his release I caught him myself, red handed, trafficking stolen food and clothing. He was last sentenced to six months, but the willful ruffian escaped.

BUNSEN

So you'd be doing the city a service removing this criminal from our streets.

MAYOR

If that's the case, we can take him in quietly and –

PULITZER

What good would quiet do me? I want a public example made of him. I'll call the Governor

HANNAH

You never liked Roosevelt. You wrote an editorial against him day after day when he ran for Governor. And guess what? He got elected!

HANNAH

Mr. Pulitzer – the boy, Jack Kelly, is here.

PULITZER

Here?

HANNAH

Just outside. He's asked to see you.

PULITZER

Ask and ye shall be received. Mr. Snyder, if you please. Sit.

