

Teddy Roosevelt

(NEWSIES)

BUT LET US SEIZE THE DAY

(The NEWSIES continue to hum as a drum beats steadily.)

SPOT

Have a look out there, Mr. Pulitzer. In case you ain't figured it out, we got you surrounded.

JACK

New York is closed for business. Paralyzed. You can't get a paper or a shoe shine. You can't send a message or ride an elevator or cross the Brooklyn Bridge. You can't even leave your own building. So, what's your next move?

(BUNSEN rushes back into the room in a tizzy.)

BUNSEN

Mr. Pulitzer, the Mayor is here along with your daughter and... oh, you're not going to believe who else!

(In walk the MAYOR, KATHERINE, MEDDA, and GOVERNOR TEDDY ROOSEVELT.)

MAYOR

Good morning, Mr. Pulitzer. I think you know the Governor.

PULITZER

Governor Roosevelt?

Start

ROOSEVELT

Joseph, Joseph, Joseph. What have you done now?

PULITZER

I'm certain when you hear my explanation -

ROOSEVELT

Thanks to Miss Medda Larkin bringing your daughter to my office, I already have a thorough grasp of the situation - graphic illustrations included.

(brandishes Jack's drawings)

Bully is the expression I usually employ to show approval. But in your case I simply mean bully!

(to KATHERINE, referring to JACK)

~~And is this the boy of whom you spoke?~~

~~(to JACK)~~

~~How are you, son? I'm told we once shared a carriage ride.~~

~~JACK~~~~Pleasure's mine, Mr. Governor.~~

ROOSEVELT

(to PULITZER)

Well, Joe, don't just stand there letting those children sing endlessly. Give them the good news.

PULITZER

What good news?

ROOSEVELT

That you've come to your senses and rolled back prices. Unless, of course, you want to invite a full state senate investigation into your employment practices.

PULITZER

*(red with anger)*

You wouldn't—

ROOSEVELT

After the pressure you wielded to keep me from office? I'd do it with a smile. Come along, Joseph. There's only one thing worse than a hard heart, and that's a soft head.

*(PULITZER growls and postures.)*

And think of the happiness you'll bring those children.

*(to KATHERINE)*

He doesn't do happiness, does he?

PULITZER

*(cornered, shifting tactics)*

Mr. Kelly, if I may speak to you... alone.

*(The OTHERS withdraw from the room.)*

ROOSEVELT

*(to JACK)*

Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground. You can do this.

*(ROOSEVELT exits. JACK and PULITZER are alone.)*~~PULITZER~~~~I cannot put the price back where it was.~~~~*(JACK starts to move away.)*~~~~END~~