

- BERYL                    If all you want's a paddle mate, I'll fucking knit you one.
- SANDRA                You come in here, Monty, swinging your dick like you're running the country, well you ain't running the country.
- CLARE                 Yeah. No. You ain't running the country, that's someone else.
- (*End of scene.*)

**Music No. 5a: BIG BEN**

SCENE FIVE

*Big Ben chimes. HAROLD WILSON with three CIVIL SERVANTS.*

- HAROLD                How many strikes has the UK suffered this year?
- AIDE 1                Twenty-six thousand, Prime Minister.
- HAROLD                We're 66th for industrial productivity, behind Chad. Where is Chad?
- AIDE 2                65th, Sir.
- AIDE 1                Chad is a small African nation with seventeen goats, and a string farm.
- HAROLD                Seventeen goats, and a string farm, and they're ahead of Great Britain?
- AIDE 1                All their goats work.
- AIDE 2                Britain is currently top of the world league table for industrial unrest.
- ALL                    Champeeeees!
- AIDE 3                You can take your coat off Prime Minister. You're indoors.
- HAROLD                Gannex pay me to wear it. At all times. It's work. I'm trying to set an example . . .

**Music No. 6: ALWAYS A PROBLEM**

HAROLD

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE ME?  
WHAT'S YOUR POLITICAL STRATEGY?  
YOU HAVE TO FAKE SINCERETY  
AND BRUSH UP YOUR MACHIAVELLI

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE ME?  
WHAT KIND OF LEADER WOULD YOU BE?  
EVERY DAY A CRISIS OR SURPRISE  
DO YOU STAND FIRM OR COMPROMISE?

THERE'S ALWAYS A PROBLEM  
WAITING IN THE WINGS  
THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE PROBLEM  
FOR PRIME MINISTERS AND KINGS  
BUT WHAT KEEPS ME UP AT NIGHT  
AND MAKES ME VERY TENSE  
IS THE PROBLEM OF  
THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

AIDES

UPTIGHT, HIGHLY STRUNG  
MAKES HIM VERY TENSE  
WHEN IT COMES TO  
THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

HAROLD

IMPORTS, EXPORTS  
DEFICIT OR SURPLUS

AIDES

CAPITAL INFLOWS  
ECONOMIC CIRCUS

HAROLD

IN LAYMAN'S TERMS  
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT  
IF YOU BUY MORE THAN YOU SELL  
THEN YOU ARE REALLY IN THE SHIT.

AIDE 1                    Actually, Prime Minister, the correct term is “visible trade deficit”.

HAROLD  
YOU CAN CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE, SON  
WE'RE REALLY IN THE SHIT.

AIDES  
THERE'S ALWAYS A PROBLEM  
WAITING IN THE WINGS  
THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE PROBLEM  
FOR PRIME MINISTERS AND KINGS  
WE MAKE GREAT THINGS  
WHICH WE SELL WHEN WE CAN  
BUT THE WHOLE WORLD  
WANTS TO BUY GERMAN

HAROLD  
ANOTHER LITTLE PROBLEM  
WITH WHICH ALL WE ARE BLESSED  
IS A GREAT DEAL OF  
INDUSTRIAL UNREST  
STRIKES HERE STRIKES THERE  
IT JUST AMAZES ME  
WHEN THE DAFFODILLS COME OUT  
THE MEN COME OUT IN SYMPATHY

WE NEED IDEAS AND  
WE NEED A PLAN  
TO PUT THE GREAT  
INTO GREAT BRITAIN

AIDES  
UPTIGHT HIGHLY STRUNG  
BRINGS HIM OUT IN A SWEAT  
WHEN HE THINKS OF THE SIZE  
OF THE GREAT BRITISH DEBT

HAROLD  
ARGHH

AIDES  
DEBT

HAROLD  
ARGHH

AIDES  
DEBT

HAROLD  
ARGHH

AIDES  
DEBT

HAROLD  
ARGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

*(The AIDES go into a huddle.)*

AIDE 1                    Sir, how do you feel about quantitative easing?

HAROLD                   I don't need it, I'm very regular.

AIDE 3                   But this is an emergency.

HAROLD                   In an emergency I have two black coffees and a cigarette.

AIDE 2                   Printing money.

HAROLD                   Printing money? Can we do that?! Brilliant!

ALL  
NO MORE BLOODY PROBLEMS  
IN THOSE BLOODY WINGS  
PRINTING CASH WILL MAKE US  
ALL MORE POWERFUL THAN KINGS  
THIS IS THE MASTER PLAN  
TO CURE OUR ECONOMY

HAROLD  
IT HAD BETTER BLOODY WORK  
COS THERE AIN'T NO PLAN B

ALL  
WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY  
THE GREATEST ON THE EARTH  
WITH IT'S IMMORTAL INDUSTRIES  
FROM MINING TO WOOLWORTHS  
THEY'LL STILL BE AROUND  
WAY AFTER WE'RE GONE  
WHICH, JUDGING FROM STATE OF THINGS,  
WON'T . . .  
BE . . .  
VERY . . .  
LONG!

HAROLD  
OH SHIT!

AIDE 3                    Printing money never solved anyone's problems. You're going to have to take on the unions.

HAROLD                    I'll create a new cabinet post. Secretary of State for Taking on the Unions. Candidates?

AIDE 1                    Michael Foot.

HAROLD                    Communist. He won't be happy until we're eating pickled beetroot, drinking petrol and shagging our sisters.

Aides 3                    Barbara Castle!

AIDE 2                    But she's Minister of Transport.

HAROLD                    Is she busy?

AIDE 1                    She's learning to drive.

HAROLD                    Get her in here.

AIDE 2                    She's a woman.

HAROLD                    Good! She can do her own typing.

*(Enter BARBARA CASTLE.)*

**Music No. 6a: BUSY WOMAN (BARBARA CASTLE)**

BARBARA

HERE I AM – WELL WHAT DO YOU WANT?  
I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY YOU KNOW  
JUST BROUGHT IN THE BREATHALYSER  
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO BLOW

I'M FIGHTING FOR AN IDEAL WORLD  
AS WELL AS ALL THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES  
AND DON'T FORGET YOUR SEATBELT, PLEASE  
I JUST PASSED THE SEATBELT LAWS

BARBARA               What is it Prime Minister? Spit it out! I'm a busy woman.

ALL                       *(Audience aside.)* FIERY! LIKE HER HAIR!

HAROLD               Barbara, you know when you've lent your lawn mower to a friend  
because you can see that the neighborhood would be improved if  
he mowed his lawn.

*(BARBARA and AIDES look quizzically at the audience.)*

He forgets to return it. He starts to think it's his. He goes around  
mowing other people's lawns, he's out of control. Field mice and  
voles lose their habitats. Every green shoot is mowed down, until  
finally, a once green and pleasant land is brown and lifeless.

BARBARA             If you want to talk about the union's abuse of power, don't use silly  
metaphors. I don't beat around the bush.

ALL                       *(Audience aside.)* FIERY! LIKE HER HAIR!

HAROLD               The Labour Party is dependent on the trade union movement.

BARBARA             You can't tell me anything about the trades unions. I paid my first  
union dues when they were still on the tit!

HAROLD               Barbara, Barbara! It's easy being the opposition, it's just a lot of  
eating and drinking, but we're the Government now.

BARBARA             I came into politics to improve the lot of the working classes.

HAROLD           Rome wasn't built in a day. This is a crisis! Secretary of State for Taking on the Unions, have you got the balls for it?

BARBARA         I know I have.

HAROLD           I've never seen them.

BARBARA         I've been hiding them under a bushel.

HAROLD           Barbara, you're the right man for the job, don't let me down.

(HAROLD *exits.*)

BARBARA         Right! You! Jump to it! I want a working lunch with the TUC, in here, today. What do we need?

AIDE 2           We'll need six pork pies, twelve scotch eggs and a party can of Watneys Red Barrel.

BARBARA         Good.

AIDE 2           Anything for you ma'am?

BARBARA         I'll have a cup of tea and a chocolate finger.

(*End of scene.*)

## SCENE SIX

*Ford Social Club. Enter our ensemble and the place transforms. A FORD MACHINIST is there leading the dance in her blue overalls.*

### **Music No. 7: PAY DAY**

ENSEMBLE  
PAY DAY  
OUR DAY  
CASH IN MY POCKET  
GUNNA DRINK IT ALL AWAY

PAY DAY  
WHADYASAY?