

1 JOE: Braced yourself.

2 FRANK: Yeah...y'know...I'm a real sucker for hard luck stories.

3 Fay's always tellin' me that I should learn to stay away

4 from these guys. She was sayin' the other night...

5 JOE: What'd this guy want?

6 FRANK: What?

7 JOE: What'd he want..this fella that talked to you?

8 FRANK: He gave me this story..About how he'd been on a bat. How

9 he was broke and needed some money to clean up before he

10 went home.

11 JOE: Uh huh.

12 FRANK: But he makes it real plain that he doesn't want a handout.

13 Nothin' for nothin'.

14 JOE: What'd he mean by that?

15 FRANK: That's when he showed me the package.

16 JOE: The package.

17 FRANK: Yeah.

18 JOE: What package? 47

19 FRANK: The one he was carryin'. Y'see before this...I couldn't

20 see it. Then he showed it to me. All done up in tissue

21 paper...ribbon and all. Paper was kinda dirty...like he'd

22 been carryin' it for a long time...Ribbon was a little

23 tired but there it was.

24 JOE: Yeah.

25 FRANK: He asked me if I wanted to buy it.

26 JOE: The package.

1 FRANK: Yeah Joe...well, what was in it. He asked me if I wanted  
2 to buy that.

3 JOE: What was in it?

4 FRANK: Well, he took off the paper and opened the thing up.  
5 Inside's a brand new electric razor...brand new...worth  
6 twenty-five...twenty six dollars.

7 JOE: Uh huh. 5/10

8 FRANK: He said he'd let me have it for 20 bucks.

9 JOE: Just because he needed the money.

10 FRANK: Yeah. Well, happened that I didn't have twenty bucks. So  
11 I told him I couldn't make a deal.

12 JOE: Then he left huh?

13 FRANK: No Joe...now you wanted to hear about it...lemme finish.

14 JOE: Yeah. 5/1

15 FRANK: We talked back and forth for a little bit. Guy finally  
16 said that I looked like I had an honest face.

17 JOE: That's a new approach.

18 BEAT

19 FRANK: Joe.

20 JOE: Sorry.

21 FRANK: Finally get so that he says he'll let me have the razor  
22 for fifteen bucks. So I bought it.

23 JOE: That's how you cut your face up huh...with the new razor?

1 FRANK: In a way. Y'see I had to buy some blades last night and  
2 since I had the new electric...I didn't do it. Only thing  
3 I had in the house was a blade a week old. Got up this  
4 morning and plugged the electric in...what'dya figure  
5 happened?

6 JOE: Nothin'. It didn't run. *ell*

7 BEAT

8 FRANK: How'd you know?

9 JOE: The same thing happened to Murphy over in Robbery last  
10 month. Big Laugh around here. You were one of the guys  
11 who laughed the most.

12 FRANK: Yeah...I remember now. Miserable.

13 JOE: He know about this yet?

14 FRANK: I dread the moment Joe. I dread the moment.

15 SOUND: DOOR OPENS OFF.

16 NELSON: Friday...Smith.

17 JOE: (UP) Yeah Skipper.

18 NELSON: (OFF) See you guys.

19 JOE: (UP) Right.

20 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK ACROSS THE OFFICE AND INTO NELSON'S

21 OFFICE

22 NELSON: Close the door....

23 SOUND: DOOR CLOSE COUPLE MORE STEPS.

24 NELSON: Sit down. (BEAT) What happened to you Smith?

25 FRANK: Long story skipper.

1 NELSON: Y'can tell me later. Want you guys to take a look at this.  
2 SOUND: HE THROWS A FOLDER ACROSS THE DESK.  
3 JOE: What've you got.  
4 NELSON: Just saw Chief Brown on the way in. He's gettin' pressure  
5 from the corner pocket. They want this thing cleaned up.  
6 FRANK: What is it Joe?  
7 NELSON: Last few weeks, car stripping's taken a big jump. Not the  
8 usual line of stuff. Not just happening in certain  
9 neighborhoods. We've got reports there from the valley...  
10 Hollywood...Wilshire...all of the divisions. Same thing's  
11 happening all over town.  
12 JOE: Yeah.  
13 NELSON: Talked to the boys in the Sheriff's office. They're gettin'  
14 it. Same in Burbank...Beverly Hills...Santa Monica.  
15 Doesn't seem to be any place they aren't gettin to.  
16 FRANK: How 'bout the stuff that's stolen. Any of it show up?  
17 NELSON: Not that we can find. All the usual outlets have been  
18 checked. None of the loot can be bought.  
19 FRANK: Any special kinda things that're being taken?  
20 NELSON: Let him see those reports, Joe...  
21 JOE: Yeah...here.  
22 FRANK: Thanks.

1 NELSON: Take a look. We're not messin' with kids in this thing.  
2 Way the victims tell it...this gang can break into a  
3 locked car and lift the radio in under ten minutes. They  
4 can pull all four wheels off a car in under six minutes.  
5 Insurance companies are screaming. They've already gotten  
6 to the Police commission. Chief Brown told me this morning  
7 he didn't care how we did it but he wanted it stopped.  
8 JOE: We're on your side...where do we go?  
9 NELSON: Up to now the investigation's been handled pretty much by  
10 the divisions. From here in it's in your laps..Use as  
11 many men as you need. Just bring the thieves in. You're  
12 not working on anything now are you?  
13 JOE: No sir. Just winding up the Gibson thing. Couple of reports  
14 to finish. Should be through by noon.  
15 NELSON: Turn the reports over to somebody else. I want you to  
16 start on this thing right away.  
17 FRANK: Okay.  
18 JOE: Right skipper.  
19 NELSON: Anything you need...let me know.  
20 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK GET UP AND WALK TO THE DOOR.  
21 JOE: We'll check you later.  
22 NELSON: Right.  
23 SOUND: DOOR OPEN

- 1 NELSON: (LITTLE OFF AT DESK) Oh Smith.
- 2 FRANK: Yeah.
- 3 NELSON: You look pretty bad...why don't you get an electric
- 4 razor?

(END SCENE 1)

1 JOE: 8:11 A.M. Frank and I asked one of the other men in the  
2 detail to finish up the reports on the case we'd just  
3 finished, and then we started through the statements we'd  
4 gotten from Captain Nelson. From them we got a pretty  
5 good idea of how the car stripping ring was operating.  
6 There seemed to be a definite plan for the thefts. Most  
7 of the stolen articles were in the luxury class. Only  
8 radios were taken from Cadillacs and Lincolns. Heaters  
9 were stolen from Chryslers, and special hub caps from  
10 foreign cars were listed among the stolen property. We  
11 had the State's office make a run on the M.O. we could  
12 piece together, but their information led us nowhere. In  
13 none of the reports was there a possible description of  
14 the thief. The times the cars were stripped and the  
15 locations where the burglaries occurred made it apparent  
16 that it was a large scale operation. For the next two  
17 days, we talked with the victims. We double checked the  
18 time of the thefts, and the movements of the victims  
19 immediately proceeding the car stripping. We asked about  
20 people loitering in the vicinity of the parked cars. None  
21 of the drivers who'd been victimized could supply us with  
22 any more evidence than they'd given in their statements.  
23 Friday, June 16th, we checked the list of recent parolees  
24 from State penitentiaries and work farms looking for  
25 ex-convicts who been involved in cases of car stripping.

(MORE)

1 JOE (CONT'D) The list of names we came up with were checked out, but  
2 they led us nowhere. In the meantime, the pressure from  
3 citizens groups in the city had gotten worse..At the end  
4 of the first week we'd been working on the case, the value  
5 of stolen articles reached about 500 dollars a day.  
6 Additional officers were assigned to patrol the streets.  
7 Radio cars doubled the number of field interrogations they  
8 normally made and although several arrests were made,  
9 the possibles picked up apparently had no part in the  
10 in the activities of the organized ring. On Saturday,  
11 June 24th, we got a call from an ex-convict. He asked us  
12 to come out to his garage and talk to him.

13 SOUND: STREET B.G. OFF.

14 AL: C'mon back here fellas. We can talk while I finish up.

15 JOE: Okay.

16 SOUND: THEY WALK TO THE BACK OF THE GARAGE.

17 FRANK: Quite a place you got here Al.

18 AL: Yeah...I been pretty lucky. Got just about all I can  
19 handle now and the way business is goin....I'm gonna  
20 have to take on some more help.

21 JOE: How many men you got workin' for you now?

22 AL: Two full time. Saturdays...I gotta couple of kids who  
23 come in and help out with the wash jobs.

24 SOUND: STEPS STOP.



1 AL: (CONTINUING) We can talk here. Pull up a couple of those  
2 chairs.  
3 JOE: Yeah.  
4 SOUND: CHAIRS PULLED UP.  
5 AL: Rag there on the bench if you wanna wipe 'em off...they  
6 get a little dirty standing around.  
7 JOE: It's okay Al...what d'ya wanna see us about?  
8 AL: First off, I wanna tell you guys that I appreciate the  
9 way you treated me when I fell. I'll never forget it.  
10 Real nice.  
11 FRANK: Don't worry about it Al.  
12 AL: I read in the papers where you're gettin' a lot of heat  
13 on the stripping goin' around.  
14 JOE: Yeah.  
15 AL: I just wondered how you were doin' on it.  
16 JOE: It's goin' slow. Why? You know anything?  
17 AL: I got a couple of rumbles. Y'know...it's hard not to  
18 hear 'em.  
19 JOE: Uh huh.  
20 AL: I heard that none of the stuff's been shoved...that  
21 right?  
22 FRANK: We haven't seen any of it.  
23 AL: Way I get it...you aren't about to. Say...hand me that  
24 socket wrench will you?  
25 SOUND: FRANK TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS.  
26 FRANK: (LITTLE OFF) This?

1 AL: Yeah.

2 SOUND: FRANK COMES BACK ON.

3 FRANK: Here y'go.

4 AL: Thanks.

5 SOUND: AL LEANS OFF MIKE A LITTLE AND WE HEAR HIM FIT THE  
6 WRENCH TO A BOLT AND TIGHTEN IT.

7 AL: (EFFORT) Fella came in here a couple of days ago. I  
8 knew him before. Said he wanted to do business.

9 JOE: Yeah.

10 SOUND: AL STRAIGHTENS UP AND PUTS THE WRENCH ON THE CEMENT  
11 FLOOR.

12 AL: Asked me if I was interested in some good buys in used  
13 radios.

14 JOE: Uh huh.

15 AL: I told him I might be if they were good. He said these  
16 were the best. All G.M.s....Then he gave me the price.  
17 When I heard that, I knew somethin' was off.

18 JOE: What was he askin'?

19 AL: Told me he could deliver 6 Cadillac radios for 28.50  
20 apiece. I asked him where he got 'em.

21 JOE: What'd he say to that?

22 AL: Told me it wasn't any of my business. Said where he got  
23 'em didn't make the radios play any different.

24 FRANK: What makes you figure he might be in on the operation  
25 we're after?

26 AL: I told him that if he could make deliveries at that  
27 price, I'd want a lot more than a half dozen.

JOE: Yeah.

1 AL: He said he couldn't supply 'em. Said that he only  
2 could spring six. I asked him if he was workin' alone.  
3 He told me "no." I figured I oughta give you guys a  
4 call. Might be somethin' for you.  
5 JOE: You said you know him.  
6 AL: Yeah ... from before. Say ... you guys like a cold beer?  
7 JOE &  
FRANK: No...no thanks. Etc.  
8 AL: Mind if I have one? Kinds hot.  
9 JOE: Go ahead.  
10 SOUND: AL TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS OFF AND WE HEAR HIM OPEN OLD  
11 TYPE ICE BOX. HE TAKES A CAN OF BEER OUT AND WALKS  
12 BACK ON.  
13 AL: Boy ... this smog sure is rough. Day get's a little hot  
14 and you really notice it. Sure you guys don't want a  
15 beer?  
16 JOE: No.  
17 SOUND: AL PUNCHES A COUPLE OF HOLES IN THE CAN AND POURS THE  
18 BEER INTO A GLASS.  
19 AL: Never could drink it out of a can...Seems to taste better  
20 in a glass.  
21 SOUND: HE TAKES A DRINK OF THE BEER.  
22 AL: Good.  
23 JOE: Yeah..now look Al...who was this guy?  
24 AL: I wanna do you a favor. After the way you helped me  
25 out, I'd like to return the favor. But I don't wanna  
26 turn fink.  
27 FRANK: You haven't given us much we didn't know. Without they  
28 guy's name, we're not aheady any.

1 JOE: C'mon Al.  
2 BEAT  
3 AL: Manny. Manny Phillips.  
4 JOE: Know where we can get in touch with him?  
5 AL: Haven't got the slightest idea.  
6 FRANK: He say he was gonna come back?  
7 AL: Not right out...but he will.  
8 JOE: Why d'ya say that?  
9 AL: Way I got it figured ... he's got a hold of some hot  
10 radios...he's holdin' out on somebody. Not too many  
11 places he can shove 'em. He'll be back.  
12 ~~JOE: Can you come down and look at some muggs?~~  
13 AL: Yeah as soon as Tom gets here.  
14 FRANK: When'll that be?  
15 AL: What time you got now?  
16 JOE: (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH) It's 10:52.  
17 AL: Tom'll be rollin' in 'bout 11 or 11:15.  
18 FRANK: This Manny Phillips...that his real name?  
19 AL: Far as I know.  
20 JOE: He ever fallen?  
21 AL: Yeah...did time at "Q" for G.T.A.  
22 JOE: He on parole?  
23 AL: I dunno...I think he made it free like I told you...I  
24 don't know him real well. He used to hang around. I  
25 Never had much to do with him.  
26 JOE: Uh huh.