

Duffy's Tavern
“Archie Cuts Prices by 10%”
Originally broadcast
December 29, 1950

MFX: OLD-TIME PIANO PLAYING ‘WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING’

SFX: AFTER 8 BARS OF SONG, TELEPHONE RINGS 3 TIMES

MFX: FADE PIANO ON 2ND RING OF TELEPHONE

SXF: TELEPHONE RECEIVER BEING PICKED UP

ARCHIE: HELLO, DUFFY’S TAVERN, WHERE THE ELITE MEET TO EAT. ARCHIE THE MANAGER SPEAKIN’. DUFFY AIN’T HERE. OH! HELLO, DUFFY!
(pause as if he’s listening to Duffy) WHAT AM I DOIN’? UHHH, WELLLL, I JUST WORKED OUT THE PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE 1950 FISCAL.
(pause again as if listening) HOW DO THE FIGURES LOOK? BEAUTIFUL, DUFFY...JUST ‘BEE-U-TI-FUL’. THE NICEST SHADE OF RED YA EVER SEEN! (pause for laugh) HUH? (insistent) NOW REALY, DUFFY! (pause as if listening again) DUFFY! PLEASE! DON’T GET YOUR ‘CORPSUCKLES’ IN AN UPROAR!
(pause for laugh) ‘CUZ WE LOSE MONEY FOR 12 STRAIGHT MONTHS, IS THAT A REASON TO GET WORRIED? (soothing) NUTHIN’ TO WORRY ABOUT. (pause as if listening) WE’RE JUST A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES. CAN’T SEEM TO FIND A CUSTOMER THAT HAS A THIRST AND A NICKLE AT THE SAME TIME. (pause for laugh) HUH? BROGAN’S ACROSS THE STREET? (scolding) DUFFY, STOP ALWAYS COMPARIN’ US TO BROGAN’S WILL YA? (confidently) BELIEVE ME, I’VE BEEN WATCHIN’ HIS PLACE LATELY AND I GOTTA ADMIT A LOT OF PEOPLE GO IN THERE, BUT BELIEVE ME, I’VE SEEN JUST AS MANY COME OUT! (pause for laugh) ANYWAY, IT’S A GOOD SIGN WHEN OUR BUSINESS HITS THE BOTTOM LIKE THIS, YOU SEE. FROM NOW ON, THERE’S ONLY ONE WAY IT CAN GO....UP... ERRR HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SIDEWAYS? (demanding) NOW, DUFFY FORGET BUSINESS AND STOP WORRYIN’ BEFORE YOUR.....ERR.....SCALP TURNS GRAY. (more relaxed) I’LL CALL YA BACK..BYE.

SFX: PHONE BEING HUNG UP

**ARCHIE: WELL, EDDIE, THE END OF THE END.....LEAVE US TAKE
OUR LIQUOR INVENTORY, HMM?**

EDDIE: OK

ARCHIE: ALL RIGHT (pause) GIN.... 1 BOTTLE...

EDDIE: (emphatically) CHECK!

ARCHIE: 1 CORK

EDDIE: CHECK!

ARCHIE: 1 LABEL

EDDIE: CHECK!

ARCHIE: (hesitant) BRAND.....

EDDIE: (interrupting) WHO CARES?

ARCHIE: WHY?

EDDIE: THE BOTTLE'S EMPTY (pause for laugh)

**ARCHIE: WELL, SO MUCH FOR THE LIQUOR INVENTORY....(pause for
laugh)**

**EDDIE: YA KNOW, ARCHIE, BUSINESS IS NOT GONNA GO UP,
UNLESS WE DO SUMPETHIN' ABOUT IT.**

**ARCHIE: YOU'RE RIGHT, EDDIE. WE GOTTA FIND SOME WAY TO
REVIVE OUR BUSINESS. HEY! MISS DUFFY, HAND ME
THAT NEWSPAPER, WILL YA?**

**MISS DUFFY: A NEWSPAPER REVIVE OUR BUSINESS?? WHAT ARE
YA GONNA DO? FAN IT BACK TO LIFE? (pause for laugh)**

**ARCHIE: NO, MISS DUFFY, I'M GONNA LOOK FOR IDEAS. MAYBE
THE NEWSPAPER WILL GIVE ME A HINT WHAT'S RUININ'
US.**

MISS DUFFY: BUT THAT'S LAST WEEK'S PAPER.

ARCHIE: OK, I'LL FIND OUT WHAT RUINED US LAST WEEK.
(pause for laugh)

SFX: NEWSPAPER PAGES BEING TURNED

ARCHIE: LET'S SEE NOW..... LET'S SEE THE FINANCIAL SECTION....

SFX: MORE PAGES BEING TURNED

ARCHIE: HMMMM..... LOOKS BAD.....

MISS DUFFY: WHAT LOOKS BAD?

ARCHIE: FREIGHT CAR LOADING DOWN 2%....

EDDIE: FREIGHT CAR LOADIN'? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US?

ARCHIE: (authoritatively) IT'S SELF-OBVIOUS, EDDIE... SOME OUR LESS 'BOURZ-WAH' CUSTOMERS RIDE THE RODS... AND A THING LIKE THAT COULD CUT INTO OUR OUT OF TOWN TRADE.

MISS DUFFY: HEY! WHAT'S THIS ARTICLE HERE ON BUSINESS ADVICE?

ARCHIE: WHERE? (amazed) HMM, WELL WHAT DO YA KNOW? IT'S WROTE BY J.C. CRABTREE. HE USED TO BE IN BUSINESS RIGHT HERE ON THIRD AVENUE.

EDDIE: HE AN EXPERT ON ECONOMICS?

MISS DUFFY: HE OUGHT TO BE, HE WENT BANKRUPT THREE TIMES. (pause for laugh)

EDDIE: WHAT'D HE SAY?

ARCHIE: HE SAYS THAT INFLATION HURTS BUSINESS. (reading) IF ALL SMALL BUSINESSMEN WOULD REDUCE THEIR PRICES ONE-TENTH, THE RESULTING REDUCTION WOULD BE TEN PERCENT (pause for laugh) (agreeing) HEY! THAT CRABTREE MAKES SENSE!

EDDIE: YEAHHHHH YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH LOGIC LIKE THAT!

ARCHIE: EDDIE, YA KNOW WITH THE WAY PRICES IS RIGHT NOW, PEOPLE JUST CAN'T MAKE ENDS MEET. SO, I THINK IT'S

ARCHIE: UP TO US RETAIL MERCHANTS TO AT LEAST MEET THEIR ENDS HALF WAY. (pause for laugh)

EDDIE: WELL, HOW ARE WE GONNA DO THAT?

ARCHIE: WELL, LIKE THAT ECONOMIC GUY SAYS, WE'RE GONNA CUT OUR PRICES TEN PERCENT. (emphatically) AND WE'RE GONNA DO IT EFFECTIVE AS OF OUR NEXT CUSTOMER!

MISS DUFFY: (smart alleck) WHY CAN'T WE START THIS WEEK?
(pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: UMMM...WHY NOT? HOWEVER, BEFORE WE START CUTTIN' OUR PRICES, WE'LL NATURALLY HAVE TO START CUTTIN' OUR OVERHEAD.

EDDIE: OVERHEAD?

ARCHIE: YOUR SALARY.

EDDIE: YOU CAN FIND IT, YOU CAN CUT IT....(pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: (happy) THAT'S THE SPIRIT, EDDIE! FROM NOW ON, EVERYTHING AROUND HERE WILL BE TEN PERCENT OFF!

FINNEGAN: (happy and slightly drunk) HELLO, ARCH!

ARCHIE: OH, HIYA, FINNEGAN!

FINNEGAN: (shouting) HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

ARCHIE: (confused) WAIT A MINUTE! FINNEGAN! NEW YEAR'S EVEN AIN'T UNTIL SUNDAY NIGHT!

FINNEGAN: (deflated and sober) OHHHH...NO WONDER THAT COP GOT MAD WHEN I THREW CONFETTI IN HIS FACE. (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: FINNEGAN, HOWZ COME YOUR CELEBRATIN' NEW YEAR'S EVE TWO NIGHTS AHEAD OF TIME?

FINNEGAN: WELL, IT'S EASY!.....IT'S TO GET RESERVATIONS! (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: RESERVATIONS? (pause) WHERE ARE YOU GOIN'?

FINNEGAN: OHHH.....THE STORK CLUB...

ARCHIE: (assured) FINNEGAN, THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU IN THE STORK CLUB IN A MILLION YEARS.

FINNEGAN: (pleased) OH, GOOD! THEN I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO SHAVE! (pause for laugh) CARE TO JOIN ME, ARCH?

ARCHIE: NO, I'M BUSY ON ME PLAN TO CUT THE HIGH COST OF LIVIN'.

FINNEGAN: (confused) OH.....HOW DOES THE PLAN WORK, ARCH?

ARCHIE: WELL.....LEAVE ME PUT IT THIS WAY, YOU'VE GOT A DOG, RIGHT?

FINNEGAN: (agreeing) RIGHT

ARCHIE: AND YOU GOTTA WASH THIS DOG WITH FLEA SOAP, RIGHT?

FINNEGAN: RIGHT

ARCHIE; NOW, HOW MUCH DO YA PAY FOR THIS FLEA SOAP?

FINNEGAN: FIFTEEN CENTS

ARCHIE: AND HOW LONG DOES IT LAST YA?

FINNEGAN: ASSUMIN' I ONLY USE IT ON ME DOG? (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: YEAH.....HOW LONG WILL THE FLEA SOAP LAST?

FINNEGAN: (thinking) LEMME SEE..... I GIVE THE DOG HIS REG'LAR BATH EVERY TWO WEEKS, (pause) AND ONCE IN A WHILE, I TAKE ONE MESELF... (pause for laugh) (matter of factly) IT LASTS ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS, ARCH, WHY? (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: WELL, YA SEE, IF YA SAVE TEN PERCENT, ON YOUR DOG'S FLEA SOAP OVER THE PERIOD OF TWO YEARS, IT WOULD COME ALMOST TO THE PRICE OF A NEWSPAPER OR A BOOK, OR A MAGAZINE.

FINNEGAN: SO WHAT, ARCH? THE DOG CAN'T READ... (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: THAT'S BESIDES TO THE POINT! I'M TRYIN' TO EXPLAIN

ARCHIE: TO YOU THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM. AND YA SEE, ECONOMICS IS THE SCIENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT USES TO BALANCE OUR NATIONAL INCOME AGAINST OUR NATIONAL EXPENSE.

FINNEGAN: (slightly confused) I SEE....HOW DOES IT WORK?

ARCHIE: AHHHH (pause) NOT VERY WELL..... (pause for laugh) BUT THEY GET AROUND IT, YA SEE, BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT DECLARIN' A FISCAL ON EACH 12 MONTHS PER ANUM. (pause)

EDDIE: EXCEPT FEBRUARY

ARCHIE: YOU'RE THINKIN' OF JUDICIARY.

EDDIE: I STAND CORRECTED

ARCHIE: GOOD....(authoritative) NOW, NORMALLY, PRICES FLUCTUATE, YA SEE, BUT SOMETIMES BIG COMPANIES GET THEIR CARTELS TOGETHER, AND THEY FIX THESE PRICES SO THEY CAN'T 'FLUX'. (pause for laugh) THIS IS WHAT'S KNOWN AS AN INTERNATIONAL 'MONOTONY' (pause for laugh)

EDDIE: (annoyed) YOU MEAN MONOPOLY!

ARCHIE: (dryly) YOU WANNA GIVE THE LECTURE?

EDDIE: SORRY, PROFESSOR!

ARCHIE: NOW TAKE MONEY.....

FINNEGAN: (interrupting) YEAH?!

ARCHIE: YA SEE, THE BASIS OF ECONOMICS IS MONEY, WHICH WAS ORIGINATED WITH THE EARLY ROMANS WHEN THEY FIRST TOOK THEIR PUBLIC BATHS. NOW THESE BATHS WERE FOR THE POOR PEOPLE, PEOPLE WITH DOUGH COULDN'T GET IT. HENCE THE EXPRESSION 'THE FILTHY RICH'. (pause for laugh) (bragging) YES SIR! THERE'S NOTHIN' LIKE AN EDUCATION, HUH, EDDIE?

EDDIE: NOTHIN' LIKE THE ONE YOU GOT! (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: (not realizing he's been insulted) OH! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

ARCHIE: (still pompous) BUT, TO CONTINUE, FINNEGAN, YA SEE SINCE THE DAYS OF THE ROMANS, MONEY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE. 'CEPT TODAY, IT AIN'T A VERY HAPPY MEDIUM. (pause for laugh)

FINNEGAN: WHY IS THAT, ARCH

ARCHIE: WELL THE DOLLAR DEVALUATES LESS ALL THE TIME. ESPECIALLY DURING AN ERA OF UPWARD FLUX...SO, AS I SAY... SINCE WE ARE NO LONGER ON THE GOLD STANDARD, AND SINCE WE ARE NO LONGER ON THE SILVER STANDARD, IF INFLATION SET IN,

FINNEGAN: (interrupting) WHAT'LL WE BE ON THEN??

ARCHIE: I HESITATE TO SAY..... (pause for laugh) WELL, NOW THAT WE'VE DISCUSSED HIGH FINANCE..... UHHHH.... FINNEGAN, DO YA HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

FINNEGAN: YEAH.

ARCHIE: ALL RIGHT....WHAT'S THE QUESTION?

FINNEGAN: WHAT TIME IS IT? (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: WHAT TIME IS IT??? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH FINANCE?

FINNEGAN: PLENTY!!! ME MUDDA PAYS ME A NICKLE FOR EV'RY HOUR I STAY AWAY FROM HOME! (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: WELL, YOUR MOTHER SOUNDS LIKE A VERY LOGICAL WOMAN.

SFX: TELEPHONE RINGS TWICE

ARCHIE: (on first ring) WAIT A MINUTE, THAT'S PROBABLY SOME DAME CALLING ME FOR NEW YEARS EVE....

SFX: PHONE RECEIVER BEING LIFTED

ARCHIE: HELLO, HUNNY? (pause as if listening) OH, SORRY, BUB YA GOT THE WRONG NUMBER. (pause again) HUH? YA WANNA TALK TO MISS DUFFY? (chuckles) BROTHER YOU DO HAVE THE WRONG NUMBER! BUT I'LL CALL HER.... (off mic) MISS DUFFY, TELEPHONE.....

MISS DUFFY: (questioning) A MAN'S VOICE?

ARCHIE: UH-HUH

MISS DUFFY: (slightly embarrassed) OH, MY! (pause) (excited) HELLO, THIS IS MISS DUFFY, SPEAKIN' AND I'D LOVE TO!
(pause for laugh) WHAT?? (pause as if listening) ARCHIE!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS A MAN!

ARCHIE: WELL, AIN'T IT?

MISS DUFFY: IT'S MY GIRLFRIEND, KATRIKA YARBATZ (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: (dumbfounded) EVEN ON TELEVISION, SHE WOULD A FOOLED ME! (pause for laugh)

MISS DUFFY: (annoyed) HELLO, KATRINKA (pause as if listening) WHAT? A DOUBLE DATE FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE? KATRINKA YOU GOT A NERVE ASKIN' ME TO GO OUT WHEN YOU KNOW I'M ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED! WHERE WE MEETING THEM? (pause for laugh) UH-HUH..... WHAT DOES YOURS LOOK LIKE? (pause as if listening) UH-HUH...WHAT ABOUT THE ONE YOU GOT FOR ME? (pause as if listening) UH-HUH... HOW TALL? (pause again) (incredulous) FOUR FEET NINE? (pause for laugh) (very annoyed) KATRINKA YOU GOT A LOT OF NERVE ASKING ME TO GO OUT WHEN YOU KNOW I'M ENGAGED!! (pause again) WHAT? YOU'LL CALL ME BACK? KATRINKA, PLEASE DON'T BOTHER. UNLESS YOU WANNA SWITCH FELLAS. (pause for laugh)

SFX: PHONE BEING HUNG UP

MISS DUFFY: ARCHIE? WHEN ARE WE GONNA START CUTTIN' PRICES?

ARCHIE: WHY?

MISS DUFFY: WELL, IF IT WASN'T FOR HIGH PRICES, I'D ALREADY BE MRS. RODNEY MAXIMILLIAN HAYBINDER....

ARCHIE: HOWZ COME?

MISS DUFFY: EVERY WEEK RODNEY PROMISES ME THAT AS SOON

MISS DUFFY: AS PRICES COME DOWN, WE'LL GET MARRIED.
(pause) (angry) THE NERVE OF THAT JUSTICE
OF THE PEACE CHARGING TWO DOLLARS FOR
A MARRIAGE LICENSE! (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: YEAH.....

SXF: TELEPHONE RING (1)

SFX; TELEPHONE RECEIVER BEING LIFTED

ARCHIE: HELLO? OH, HELLO, DUFFY. (confident) DUFFY, I
GOT THE ANSWER TO MAKIN' MONEY! YEP!
WE CUT PRICES TEN PERCENT. (pause as if listening)
IT DON'T MAKE SENSE? (annoyed) WHAT'S SENSE
GOT TO DO WITH IT? IT'S ECONOMICS!! YEAH,
A GUY IN THE NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT IF WE ALL
GET PUBLIC SPIRITED, AND CUT PRICES TEN
PERCENT, IT HELPS EVERYBODY. IN UDDER WORDS,
IF BROGAN SELLS BEERS FOR A NICKLE, AND WE
SELL 'EM FOR FOUR CENTS, BROGAN IS DEAD.
(pause as if listening) HUH? IN THAT CASE WE SHOULD
BE PUBLIC SPIRITED. CUT THE TEN PERCENT, BUT
DON'T TELL BROGAN. (proud) DUFFY, I'M GLAD YA
SEE THE LIGHT! BYE.

SFX; PHONE BEING HUNG UP

ARCHIE: WELL, GANG, THE CRUSADE MARCHES ON. WE'RE
STARTIN' WITH OUR RIGHT FOOT FORWARD! WITH
THIRD AVENUE AGAINST IT, INFLATION HAS TO GO,
RIGHT, MISS DUFFY?

MISS DUFFY: RIGHT!

ARCHIE: RIGHT, EDDIE?

EDDIE; RIGHT!

ARCHIE: RIGHT, FINNEGAN?

FINNEGAN: LEFT (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: WHAT??

FINNEGAN: OH, EXCUSE ME, ARCH! I STARTED OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT.

MXF: BRIDGE

ARCHIE: (deep in thought) WELL, LET'S SEE... I CALLED UP MOST OF THE MERCHANTS...WHO DID I FORGET? OH, YEAH! WOLLAMACK THE BUTCHER.

SFX: PHONE OFF HOOK THEN DIALED

ARCHIE: (after pause to connect call) HELLO? WOLLAMACK'S HAM HOCK HEAVEN? (pause) OH, HELLO, WOLLAMACK, THIS IS ARCHIE. DIDJA HEAR ABOUT THE THIRRD AVENUE MERCHANTS CUTTIN' PRICES TEN PERCENT? (pause as if listening) WELL, WHAT ARE YA GONNA DO ABOUT IT? (pause again) UH-HUH... (proud) ATTA BOY, WOLLAMACK! OK, THANKS A LOT!

SFX: PHONE BEING HUNG UP

EDDIE: WHAT DID HE SAY?

ARCHIE; HE SAYS FROM NOW ON, HE SAYS INSTEAD OF TEN FINGERS ON THE SCALE, HE'S ONLY GONNA PUT ON NINE! (pause for laugh)AND NOW, ABOUT US, EDDIEDIDJA REDUCE THE PRICES?

EDDIE: WELL, I TOOK TEN PERCENT OFF THE FOOD AND THE BEER, BUT I GOT ONE BAFFLIN' QUESTION.

ARCHIE: WHAT?

EDDIE: HOW ARE YA GONNA REDUCE THE PRICE ON THE FREE LUNCH? (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: UMMM (suddenly gets idea) I GOT IT! WE THROW TEN PERCENT OF IT AWAY! (pause for laugh)

EDDIE: (cynical) WHY DON'T YOU BE REAL PUBLIC SPIRITED AND THROW IT ALL AWAY? (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: HMM, WELL, WE MIGHT DO THAT, TOO....YES SIR! THIS THING IS REALLY CATCHIN' ON! EVERYBODY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS CUTTIN' TEN PERCENT,

ARCHIE: EXCEPT THAT BROGAN, OF COURSE.

EDDIE: EVERYBODY?

ARCHIE: YEP! DELUCI, THE FRUIT PEDDLAR, NICK THE BARBER....

EDDIE: HE GONNA TAKE ANOTHER INCH?

ARCHIE: YEAH, HE'S GONNA TAKE ANOTHER TEN PERCENT

EDDIE: OH, YOU MEAN SHAVIN' LOTION IS OUT, AND PLASMA IS IN? (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: YEP! THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD IS BEHIND THIS! AND THE GUY I'M REALLY PROUD OF IS CAVENDISH, THE UNDERTAKER.... HE STARTED WHAT HE CALLS THE NEW CAVENDISH TEN PERCENT LAY-AWAY PLAN. (pause for laugh)

EDDIE: WHAT'S THAT?

ARCHIE: FOR EVERY NINE CUSTOMERS, HE'LL THROW IN ONE FREE... (pause for laugh)

EDDIE: IF HE AIN'T CAREFUL, HE'S GONNA RUN HIS BUSINESS RIGHT INTO THE GROUND!

FINNEGAN: HEY, ARCH! THERE'S ANOTHER PLACE THAT CAN TAKE A CUT.

ARCHIE: WHO?

FINNEGAN: SCHMITT'S TATOO PARLOR.

ARCHIE: THE TATOO PARLOR? HOW CAN THEY TAKE A CUT?

FINNEGAN: WELL, INSTEAD OF TATOO, THEY CAN TAT ONE... (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: (annoyed) FINNEGAN! FOR A REMARK LIKE THAT YOU SHOULD GO HANG YOUR HEAD!AND LET THE REST OF YOU DANGLE. (pause for laugh) NOW LET'S SEE.....WE GOT EVERYBODY.....

MISS DUFFY: (interrupting) HOW 'BOUT THE BIJOU BURLESQUE?

ARCHIE: (apologetically) WELL, ERR THEY SAID THEY'D LIKE TO TAKE OFF ANOTHER TEN PERCENT.... (pause for laugh) BUT THEY CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHERE IT'S GONNA COME FROM. (pause) WELL, THAT MEANS WE GOT EVERYBODY EXCEPT THEM AND BROGAN.

MISS DUFFY: ARCHIE, DON'T YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO LET BROGAN IN ON THIS, TOO?

ARCHIE: WHAT? LET HIM IN? AFTER THAT UGLY RUMOR HE STARTED ABOUT OUR FOOD? IMAGINE SAYIN' THAT WHEN CALAHAN, THE MOUNTED COP RIDES BY THE TAVERN, AND HIS HORSE NEIGHS, OUR HASH NEIGHS BACK! (pause for laugh) ABSURD, AIN'T IT EDDIE?

EDDIE: REDICULOUS! BUT I HAVE HEARD IT WHINNEY...

MISS DUFFY: BUT, ARCHIE, THE NEWSPAPER MAN SAYS THIS PLAN WON'T WORK UNLESS EVERYBODY GETS IN ON IT.

ARCHIE: (softening) MAYBE WE SHOULD LET BROGAN IN... ONLY THING IS, WHO TELLS HIM? I CAN'T TALK TO HIM DI-RECT...

MISS DUFFY: WHY NOT?

ARCHIE: IT VIOLATES THE THIRD AVENUE BUSINESSMANS' CODE. IT'S LIKE MACY'S TALKING TO GIMBLES. HART-SCHAFFNER TALKIN' TO MARX. IF I DEAL DIRECTLY WITH BROGAN, IT MIGHT LEAD TO A STRAIN IN PROTOCOL....

MISS DUFFY: MIGHT ALSO LEAD TO A PUNCH IN THE NOSE (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKIN'. (pause for laugh) I THINK WE BETTER DO THINGS ON A HIGHER LEVEL AND MAYBE SEND AN AMBASSADOR.

EDDIE: AN AMBASSADOR, HUH?

ARCHIE: YEAH, EDDIE

EDDIE: YOU GOT ANYBODY IN MIND, SAID HE,
CAUTIOUSLY, BACKING AWAY

ARCHIE: NAAAW, WE WON'T NEED YOU. WE'LL SEND
FINNEGAN. WE'LL HAVE TO DRESS HIM UP
LIKE AN AMBASSADOR, YA KNOW? WE'LL GET HIM
A TUXEDO, AND A WALKIN' STICK, AND ONE OF
THEM BLACK HAMBURGER HATS. (pause for laugh)
NOW, LET'S SEE, WHERE COULD WE GET THEM?

EDDIE: WELL, YOU STILL GOT THAT TUXEDO IN THE BACK
ROOM YOU BOUGHT FROM CAVENDISH THE
UNDERTAKER....

ARCHIE: OH, YEAH! GET IT OUT, EDDIE. (off mic) HEY,
FINNEGAN!

FINNEGAN: YEAH, ARCH?

ARCHIE: HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN AMBASSADOR?

FINNEGAN: (confused) WHAT'S THAT, ARCH?

ARCHIE: AN AMBASSADOR? WELL...ERR GENERALLY
SPEAKIN', THAT'S A GUY THAT SAYS HIS COUNTRY
HAS SUMPETHIN' THAT IT DON'T, IN ORDER TO SCARE
ANOTHER COUNTRY TO GIVE UP SUMPETHIN' THAT
IT AIN'T GOT, SO THAT BOTH COUNTRIES CAN
AGREE TO DIVIDE SUMPETHIN' THAT BELONGS TO
SOMEBODY ELSE (pause for laugh)

FINNEGAN: ARCH, A POINT...

ARCHIE: WHAT?

FINNEGAN: WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE THE COUNTRIES ALONE
AND JUST DIVIDE UP THE AMBASSADORS? (pause
for laugh)

ARCHIE: (chuckling) FINNEGAN, ALREADY, YOU'RE TALKIN'
LIKE A DIPLOMAT. NOBODY CAN MAKE HEAD NOR
TAILS OUTTA WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN' (pause)
NOW LET'S SEE....HERE'S YOUR FIRST OFFICIAL
MISSION. I WANT YOU TO GO OVER TO BROGAN'S
AND TELL HIM TO CUT HIS PRICES TEN PERCENT.

FINNEGAN: UHHH HOW DO I GO ABOUT IT, ARCH?

ARCHIE: WELLLL....LIKE AN AMBASSADOR, YA SEE...
GOT TO USE A LOT OF TACT AND DIPLOMACY.
FIRST YOU ASK HIM TO CUT HIS PRICES, SEE?
THEN IF HE SAYS NO, YOU START OFF BY CALLING
HIM A CROOK. (pause) YA SEE, THAT PUTS YOU IN
A BARGAINING POSITION. (pause for laugh) THEN,
IF HE ARGUES WITH YA, YOU TELL HIM HE'S
A LOUSY TORRIE, SEE? THEN IF HE SAYS CUTTIN'
PRICES WON'T HELP HIS BUSINESS, YOU CALL HIM
A FILTHY, DIRTY LIAR. (pause) (very softly) BUT
ABOVE ALL....USE TACT AND DIPLOMACY. (pause
for laugh)

EDDIE: HERE YOU ARE, ARCHIE...

ARCHIE: WHAT?

EDDIE: CAVENDISH'S TUXEDO.

ARCHIE: OH---OH THANKS, EDDIE.

EDDIE: SHALL I THROW THE LILLY AWAY?

ARCHIE: NAAAW....NO, KEEP IT IN...IT'LL LOOK LIKE OUR
AMBASSADOR IS WEARING A BOUTINEER. (pause)
OH, FINNEGAN?

FINNEGAN: YEAH, ARCH?

ARCHIE: C'MON IN HERE AND LAY DOWN, AND TRY ON THIS
TUXEDO. (pause for laugh)

FINNEGAN: (excited) OH, BOY! A TUXEDO! LEMME TRY IT ON!
(pause—then small grunt as if trying on pants) GEE! THESE
PANTS ARE SWELL, ARCH! (pause, then a little bit
disappointed) ERRR, BUT THERE'S SUMPIN' WRONG
WITH THE COAT.

ARCHIE: WHAT?

FINNEGAN: THE SLEEVES KEEP FOLDIN' ACROSS ME CHEST!
(pause for laugh) (again excited) DO I LOOK LIKE A REAL
AMBASSADOR, EDDIE?

EDDIE: YEP! A DEAD RINGER! (pause)

ARCHIE: OK, FINNEGAN...NOW TAKE YOUR HAT AND WALKIN' STICK, AND GET ACROSS THE STREET TO BROGAN'S.

FINNEGAN: OK, ARCH! (with a pompous aire) I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU BY CABLE. (pause for laugh)

AFX: TRANSITION

ARCHIE: EDDIE, I GOT A PROBLEM.

EDDIE: WHAT?

ARCHIE: WELL, AS SOON AS 'WOID' GETS AROUND ABOUT THIS PRICE CUT, THIS PLACE IS GONNA BE TOO SMALL. (pause) NOW, LET'S SEE....I WONDER HOW WE COULD BREAK THROUGH THAT WALL?

EDDIE: JUST LEAN AGAINST IT! (pause for laugh) NOW WHO'S GONNA DO ALL THE COOKIN' FOR THIS MOB? ME??

ARCHIE: NO, I'LL HAVE TO GET AN ASSISTANT FOR YA, EDDIE. NOW LET'S SEE...WHO COULD I GET?

EDDIE: OH, HOW ABOUT PRINCE MICHAEL ROMANOFF?

ARCHIE: (impressed) HMMM, GOOD IDEA, I THINK I'LL CALL HIM UP!

EDDIE: (chuckles) AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS BEING FANTASTIC....

SFX: TELEPHONE BEING DIALED

ARCHIE: (after dialing is done and party answers) HELLO? HELLO, MIKE? LOOK, YOU'RE AN EXPERT ON COOKIN' UP UHHHH (thinking) UHHH 'GUTSATORY' DELACACIES, AIN'T YA? (pause as if listening) WELL, HOW WOULD YA LIKE A PART TIME JOB?MONEY NO OBJECT.

EDDIE: IF IT IS HIS OBJECT, WE'RE DEAD! (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: HUH? WELL, THIS IS ARCHIE, FROM DUFFY'S TAVERN AND WE NEED AN ASSISTANT COOK. (pause as if listening) WHAT TYPES OF FOOD DO

ARCHIE: WE SERVE? OHHH, THINGS LIKE...ERR... ROAST BREAST OF CASSEROLE...(pause for laugh) FRESH COLUMBIA RIVER VENISON (pause –then a bit pompous) WITH CHUTNEY, OF COURSE!

EDDIE: UNDER GLASS!

ARCHIE: (affirming) UNDER GLASS....

EDDIE: UNDER STAINED GLASS

ARCHIE: UNDER STA...EDDIE!!! (pause) WHAT? (pause as if listening) WHAT ARE OUR CANOPIES MADE OF? WELL, THE ONE OUT IN FRONT IS MADE OUT OF CANVAS... (pause for laugh) OH! YOU MEAN CANAPES LIKE....A...ANCHOVY PASTE? (haughty) MIKE! AT DUFFY’S WE DON’T USE ANCHOVY PASTE! WHEN OUR ANCHOVIES COME APART, WE PIN THEM TOGETHER! (pause for laugh) HUH? (pause as if listening) WHAT? (another pause) UMMM, I SEE... OK...GOOD BYE.

SFX: TELEPHONE BEING HUNG UP

EDDIE: WHAT HAPPENED?

ARCHIE: WE COULDN’T GET TOGETHER ON A PRICE.

EDDIE: WHAT DO YA MEAN?

ARCHIE: HE SAYS HE WOULDN’T COME HERE FOR A MILLION BUCKS...(pause for laugh) HMMM, NOW LET’S SEE, WHAT ELSE DO WE HAVE TO DO...

EDDIE: (interrupting) WELL, WITH THEM CROWDS COMIN’ IN HERE, WE’RE GONNA NEED MORE LIQUOR.

ARCHIE: THAT’S RIGHT, EDDIE! YA BETTER POUR ANOTHER GALLON OF WATER IN THE SCOTCH. (pause for laugh)

EDDIE: AWW, ARCHIE, IF WE WATER THAT LIQUOR ANY MORE, WE’RE JUST GONNA BE THE MIDDLE MAN BETWEEN THE CUSTOMERS AND THE FAUCET. (pause for laugh) WHY DON’T YOU JUST SERVE THEM THE WATER STRAIGHT? IT’LL BE A LOT STRONGER.

ARCHIE: UH-HUH....

MISS DUFFY: ARCHIE, I'D LIKE TO HELP TAKE CARE OF THE CROWDS, TOO.

ARCHIE: OK, MISS DUFFY, YOU CAN BE THE CIGARETTE GIRL....I'LL GET YOU ONE OF THOSE SHORT LITTLE SKIRTS TO WEAR.

MISS DUFFY: (excited) GOOD! IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF MY LEGS.

ARCHIE: ON SECOND THOUGHT, BETTER WEAR WHAT YA GOT ON...(pause for laugh)

MISS DUFFY: WELL, AT LEAST THEY CAN STILL SEE MY FACE.

ARCHIE: ON 'THOID' THOUGHT, I THINK WE'LL KEEP THE CIGARETTE MACHINE.... (pause for laugh)

SFX: TELEPHONE RINGS ONCE THEN PICKED UP

ARCHIE: EXCUSE ME....HELLO? OH, HELLO, DUFFY. HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THE PLACE? YOU MEAN, COUNTIN' ME AND EDDIE? (pause) TWO. (pause for laugh) SORRY, DUFFY, NO CUSTOMERS...THE JOINT IS EMPTY.....EVEN UNDER THE TABLES. HUH? (pause as if listening) YOU GOT A REPORT THAT BROGRAN'S IS DOIN' A BIG BUSINESS? WELL, DUFFY, AFTER ALL, BROGAN'S GOT A BETTER LOCATION THAN WE GOT. (pause again) (emphatic) I KNOW WE'RE OPPOSITE EACH OTHER, BUT DON'T FORGET: HE'S GOT THE WIND WITH HIM. (pause for laugh) STOP WORRYIN'! EVERYTHING IS GONNA BE ALL RIGHT. BYE.

SFX: TELEPHONE HANG UP

ARCHIE: I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, EDDIE, WE BOTH CUT PRICES TEN PERCENT AND BROGAN'S GETTING' ALL THE BUSINESS..... WHAT'S HE GOT THAT WE AIN'T GOT?

EDDIE: CUSTOMERS (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: YEAH, I KNOW THAT! BUT WHY?

EDDIE: WELL, DON'T FORGET: BROGAN'S PLACE IS SPIC AND SPAN, THE FOOD IS GOOD AND FRESH, AND THE KITCHEN'S NICE AND CLEAN.

ARCHIE: THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH BUSINESS THESE DAYS, EDDIE--- DIRTY COMPETITION. (pause for laugh)

SFX: PHONE RECEIVER LIFTED AND STARTS DIALING

ARCHIE: I'M GONNA CHECK THIS THING (pause until dialing is done and brogan answers) HELLO? BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU? WILL YOU TELL ME WHY BUSINESS AIN'T NO BETTER? (pause for laugh) OH, THAT AIN'T YOUR JOB.... YOU JUST INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS? WHAT KIND OF COMPLAINTS? (pause as if listening) RESTAURANTS THAT PUT HORSE MEAT IN THEIR HASH.... WATER IN THEIR LIQUOR.... WHO AM I? (nervous) JUST A FRIEND! THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SFX: PHONE HANG UP

ARCHIE: HEY, EDDIE, LOOK...LOOK ACROSS THE STREET AT BROGAN'S. (softer) HEY, LOOK AT THEM OVER THERE! (amazed) THEY'RE PACKED IN THERE LIKE FISH!

EDDIE: OH, YEAH, YEAH....THEY GOT SO MANY, THEY'RE THROWIN' THE LITTLE ONES OUT! OH, WAIT A MINUTE, WAIT A MINUTE! HERE COMES OUR AMBASSADOR.

FINNEGAN: (very excited) HEY, ARCH!!!

ARCHIE: OH, YOU'RE BACK, FINNEGAN...TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED AT BROGAN'S?

FINNEGAN: (very excited still and a bit drunk) BOY! DID I SELL BROGAN YOUR IDEA!!

ARCHIE: DIDJA, HUH?

FINNEGAN: YEAH!

ARCHIE: AND DIDJA GET HIM TO CUT HIS PRICES TEN PERCENT?

FINNEGAN: (incredulous) TEN PERCENT? AWWWW, I GOT HIM TO CUT 'EM TWENTY PERCENT!! (pause for laugh)

ARCHIE: (can't believe it) TWENTY PERCENT???

FINNEGAN: YEAH! I MATCHED HIM DOUBLE OR NUTHIN'! (pause for laugh)

DUFFY: (whimpering) OHHHHH, FINNEGAN!! YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING! (pause) (loud and angry) THE NEXT TIME I SEND AN IDIOT SOMEPLACE TO LOUSE THINGS UP, I'M GONNA GO MESELF!!

SFX: APPLAUSE

MXF: OUTRO STARTS ALMOST ON TOP OF APPLAUSE UP—THEN DOWN AND UNDER

ANNOUNCER: IT'S TIME TO LEAVE DUFFY'S TAVERN FOR NOW, BUT BE SURE TO BE WITH US NEXT TIME FOR ANOTHER HILARIOUS GET TOGETHER AT EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE TAVERN.

MXF: UP HOLD AND OUT.

SFX: NBC CHIMES