

Murphy reaches for the phone. Without dropping his cards, he jiggles the hook.

MURPHY

That must be the tenth alienist they've had on Williams. Even if he wasn't crazy before, he would be after ten of those babies got through psychoanalyzing him.

(into phone)

Gimme the desk.

ENDICOTT

This Egelhoffer's pretty good.

MURPHY

Yeah? What did he ever do for his country?

ENDICOTT

Don't you remember? He's the guy went to Washington to interview the Brain Trust, and gave out a statement that they were all sane. It created a sensation!

BENSINGER

(into phone)

Here's the situation on the eve of the hanging:

MURPHY

(into phone)

This is Murphy. More slop on the hanging.

BENSINGER

(into phone)

A double guard's been thrown around the jail, municipal buildings, railroad terminals, and elevated stations to prepare for the expected general uprising of radicals at the hour of execution.

MURPHY

(into phone)

Ready? The Sheriff's just put two hundred more relatives on the payroll

MURPHY (Cont'd)

to protect the city against the Red Army -- which is leaving Moscow in a couple of minutes.

(consults his hand)

Up a dime.

BENSINGER

(into phone)

The Sheriff has just received four more letters threatening his life, but he says nothing can interfere with his duty.

MURPHY

(into phone)

And to prove to the voters that the Red Menace is on the level, the Sheriff has written himself four more letters, threatening his life. I know he wrote 'em on account of the misspellings.

ENDICOTT

Trouble is, when the Red Menace shows up the Sheriff will still be crying 'Wolf!'

MURPHY

What have you got, Hildy?

HILDY

Kings and sixes.

MURPHY

(throwing down)

That's good.

HILDY

(sweeping coins in)

'Kings and sixes The pot affixes'... Poetry. I learned that at my grandma's knee.

WILSON

That's why I keep losing. My grandma was a modest woman -- nobody ever saw her knees, not even my grandpop.