

BENSINGER

Hildy! Are you back?

HILDY

No, just a farewell appearance,
batting for Sweeney. I'm going into
business for myself.

BENSINGER

What doing?

HILDY

I'm getting married tomorrow.

BENSINGER

Well, congratulations! Good luck!

ENDICOTT

Why don't you use him for a
bridesmaid, Hildy?

SCHWARTZ

Come on, Hildy, your deal.

BENSINGER

Say, who put these stockings in my
desk?

McCUE

I don't know, but I think they got rats in the
building.

BENSINGER

(makes a gesture of
disgust and picks up
telephone)

This is Bensinger. I just saw the
Sheriff. He won't move the hanging
up a minute... All right, I'll talk
to him again, but it's no use. The
execution is set for seven in the
morning. Get me a rewrite man.

ENDICOTT

Why can't they hang that guy at a
reasonable hour, so we can get some
sleep?

BENSINGER

(into phone)

Jake, new lead on the hanging. This new alienist from New York -- Dr. Max J. Egelhoffer -- is going to interview Williams in about half an hour -- in the Sheriff's office.

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 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.