

BARBARA CASTLE and HAROLD WILSON and AIDES. HAROLD is smoking a pipe with a cup of tea in his hand. BARBARA has a cup of tea and a Cadbury's chocolate finger.

HAROLD            So Barbara, you've had those lovely legs of yours under the desk for a week now. Who do you blame for this country's pitiful record of industrial productivity?

BARBARA           The problem as I see it is we have to get our people to go to work and stay there. We need a no-strike agreement with the TUC.

HAROLD            Are you mad, woman? I told you the Labour Party is dependent on the TUC.

BARBARA           This is not easy for me either, it's tearing me apart. This is my draft white paper, 'In Place of Strife'. We have to ban strikes.

(HAROLD stands in a buff.)

HAROLD            We can't ban strikes! The TUC have six million block votes at the Labour Party conference. They bought me this pipe. They pay for my holidays in the Scilly Isles. They underlay in my bathroom!

BARBARA           But Harold . . .

HAROLD            No, Barbara, you've got this all wrong. I'm going. And I'm not coming back until you've got a solution.

(HAROLD opens a door, goes in, closes the door. He opens the door, comes back in.)

So that's a cupboard is it?

AIDE 3             I think it's a stationery cupboard, Sir.

---

50

ACT ONE

HAROLD            (*Looks at cupboard.*) It's certainly not moving.

BARBARA           Dockers, miners, train drivers, dinner ladies. I don't mind the TUC striking when the Tories are in, but we're Labour, they're pissing on their own doorstep!

HAROLD            What about management? They have to take responsibility. It takes two to tango.

BARBARA           Don't try and bamboozle me with choreography! I don't care that you're Prime Minister, Prime Minister. You've given me this job, you have to let me do it my way, or I'll turn on you, and you don't want that because I'm like a she-lion. And have you ever seen a she-lion drag down a wildebeest?

HAROLD            I'm from Huddersfield.

BARBARA           Get out.

HAROLD            I would if I could.

BARBARA           That door there! Men!