

The Challenge of Bureaucracy

Carole Glickfeld





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We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

ArtAge Publications

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THE CHALLENGE OF BUREAUCRACY

By Carole Glickfield

CAST

FINNEY
WORKER #1
WORKER #2
WORKER #3
LORD

A Telephone Sketch

FINNEY: (*mumbles to herself as she dials phone, phone rings and a spot lights worker at desk*)

WORKER #1: Hellooooo.

FINNEY: Hello...is this the government?

WORKER #1: You have reached Department SA-dash-nine. This is the rehabilitative relocations unit for block grant recipients within Region nine.

FINNEY: That's the government alright. Listen, I'm an old lady and I have a problem. My landlord is going to evict me because I'm behind in my rent, because my Social Security check is late, and I don't have any food in the house.

WORKER #1: I'm sorry. Financial and dietary evaluations are not within the purview of my sectional expertise.

FINNEY: (*long pause*) I'd ask you to repeat that, but I don't think it would get any better the second time around.

WORKER #1: Your problem is outside my jurisdiction. Let me refer you to another number. Call 355-4356. That's a multi-purpose Senior Center which receives funding under the Older Americans Act for access and gap-filling services.

FINNEY: Gap-filling?

WORKER #1: Yes, gap-filling.

FINNEY: Well, I suppose you could say there's a gap in my income. And I sure need someone to fill it. Thank you. (*hangs up and dials new number. As FINNEY dials, spotlight on WORKER #1 blacks out, phone rings and another spotlight is on the second worker at her desk.*)

WORKER #2: (*picks up phone*) Silver Retirees and Golden Pensioners Leisure Activities Center...good morning!

FINNEY: Good morning. I need help.

WORKER #2: That's why we're here. Do you need a ride to your Silver Retirees and Golden Pensioners Leisure Activity Center?

FINNEY: No. I need my Social Security check which has been lost...my landlord is going to evict me...and I don't have any food in the house.

WORKER #2: Oh, my! You mean you're not going to be joining us for leisure crafts this afternoon?

FINNEY: I very much doubt it.

WORKER #2: You should have a hobby, you know. Something to occupy your time.

FINNEY: I do have a hobby. It's trying to locate Social Security checks, avoiding being evicted, and trying not to starve to death.

WORKER #2: Well, as long as you're happy. That's what counts. Happiness is the natural margarine of the universe, and we're here to spread it.

FINNEY: Who do I call for help?

WORKER #2: Oh. Yes. Well, let's see. (*flips through pad*) Golden Roamers Senior Center...White Panthers...Pepper Nutrition Program...Free Temperature taking...Toe-nail clipping...Ah! Here it is...Call 945-3301. That's Problem Senior Citizens.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!