

TALK RADIO

(Barry finishing up with a heated call.)

BARRY

Talk radio. Free speech isn't really free at all. It's actually a little bit like Russian roulette. A very expensive commodity. You never know what's gonna come up the next time you push the button. Don't go away. We have the news and the weather coming up. And then we'll be back with more Night Talk. *(Music: 'Bad To The Bone')*

DAN

Barry.

BARRY

Dan. Laura, call down and tell Security there's a kid coming. Dan, you want anything? *(He walks to the craft service table.)* Coffee? Tea? Insulin? Crack? We have it all right here.

DAN

Hold that. Barry, you should ask me if you wanna have a guest on the show.

BARRY

Why?

DAN

'Cause I'm the boss, Barry. That's why.

BARRY

Dan, I'll do my job, you do yours, okay?

DAN

He is not coming on the show. That's it. We have too much riding on what's going on here tonight.

BARRY

What's going on here tonight?

DAN

If they think for one minute that you're undependable, it's over. So Chuck and I decided before we hit national air, we should establish a few ground rules.

BARRY

Ground rules? What is this, Dan? A radio station or an airport?

DAN

Will you shut the fuck up and listen... please?

BARRY

No, I won't listen, Dan. Metro Wave bought my show. All right? This is my show. I put who I want on my show. If I wanna have Charlie Manson on my show, I'll put him on the show. Or Ted Bundy
- Or how about this. I have David Berkowitz, Bernard Goetz, John Hinckley on. We do a special on gun control. How would that be? Or how about that postman from Oklahoma who killed 14 people, Dan? He killed his boss. We bring him on the show. We bring you on as a special guest. You and these guys on the show. We'll have a terrific show.

DAN

Ok. Cut. Cut. Out. That's funny stuff, Barry, the mailman who killed his boss. Did you see what the mailman brought me today?

BARRY

Huh?

DAN

We got half the wackos within 20 miles of this place... saying how much they wanna "burn your Jew ass." Think about that, Barry. The time it takes to sit down and write that on paper, put it in an envelope, lick it, send it to the station. And I've got boxes of this shit in my office. These people are dead serious. All I'm suggesting is that you simply pull it back, just for a little bit.

BARRY

I think you're a little out of your depth, Dan. I think it's time...

DAN

- Just stop talking and listen to me for two minutes! There's no audience listening to you right now. You do whatever you want to tonight, Barry. Have fun. Blow the deal. I'm not gonna say I don't care, because I worked very hard on this.
-I worked my ass off on this.

BARRY

- This is my life you're talking about.

DAN

No, it's not. No... what you are, Barry, is a fucking suit salesman with a big mouth. Let's call a spade a spade. It's a job. That's all it is. You can come in here and start predicting Armageddon if you want to, Barry. But it's still a job. A job you did not even know how to do... until I taught it to you!

What do you think you're doing in here, changing the world? This is a talk show, Barry, and you are a talk show host. Alan does the drive time, Jerry does the home handyman stuff, Sheila does the shrink stuff, Sid does the financial stuff, and you hang up on people. That's your job. Now, you're very good at it. You're the joker in my deck, and I'm very happy for your success.

But don't you fuck with me! You work for me! I'm your boss!!

You wanna have the kid on the show? Have him on!!! But you get one thing straight. You fuck up my deal, and you go back to selling double-knit suits.

I'm glad you take it all so seriously, Barry, but you gotta learn when to stop or it's gonna kill you.