

BIG CHIEF'S STIMULUS

An original radio drama by
Frederick Greenhalgh

AUTHORIZED FOR NON-COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION, WITH ATTRIBUTION-ONLY

CAST:

WIFE	A nagging wife
HUSBAND	A beer-swilling husband
NARRATOR/GOV' T OFFICIAL	A government official. Lizard. Also, narrator

NOTES:

- Though using convention of 'husband' and 'wife' the gender of the couple does not really matter. They are intended to be ridiculous caricatures of armchair America.

NARRATOR: In a distant, purple colored planet there's a place where the air is just a bit too hot and the people just a bit too cold. A war has been going on for so long that no one remembers when it started or why they were fighting it, and there is only one solace for the hole in one's soul...

SCENE ONE: A TRAILER ON ANOTHER PLANET

001 SFX: ~~TELEVISION ON - SHOUTS, SCREAMS, GUNSHOTS, ETC.~~

WIFE: Would you turn that blasted thing off?

HUSBAND: What?

WIFE: I said, would you turn that dangnab gosh durn slizzy liz be damned racket tuber out the blazes!

002 SFX: ~~TV TURNED OFF~~

HUSBAND: Creepy crawlies! I wuz watching that!

WIFE: That stuff fries your brain like fricasseed ferret and that's the Big Chief's honest truth.

HUSBAND: Big Chief himself told me it was OK to watch the happy box. I got to relax me-self some which way or another!

WIFE: Re-lax what? You've been on that couch for forty days and forty nights now, ever since our three little cherubs went off to the front. I'm beginning to think you're glued to that thing! When was the last time you went lookin' for a job?

HUSBAND: There ain't no jobs to look for!

WIFE: You ain't looked hard enough to figure out that much!

HUSBAND: Naw that's just dun-write cold. You know I walked this way and that way to town and even that Bally Mart has shut down. Had to dump all their pesticides right in the stream cuz no one would buy them.

WIFE: I saw a listing in the paper... They were looking for sloggers to pick up the dead bodies. Plenty of work for them nowadays.

HUSBAND: Now I don't wanna go out there and catch me no typhoidial fungus juju plague. I'd rather starve than earn the 4 chits an hour that job pays.

WIFE: Sounds like pure laziness to me. You think they're gonna keep buying your docile meds with an attitude like that?

003 SFX: _____ DOORBELL

WIFE: Now who could that be?

HUSBAND: Home delivery from the happy man!

WIFE: If you were so lucky...

004 SFX: _____ DOOR OPENS

WIFE: Hello?

GOV'T OFFICIAL: (SOUNDS LIKE A LIZARD) Ms. Beatty?

WIFE: That's me.

GOV'T OFFICIAL: We have this for you.

WIFE: Wow... if that's not an official looking envelope!

GOV'T OFFICIAL: To commensurate you for the heroic efforts of your three boys on the front. They were good fodder -- I mean, good soldiers. They did well.

HUSBAND: (OFF) Well shucks, you can have the tarny rascals if you givvin' us some extra dough, honey, what did they say they's worth?

005 SFX: _____ CRINKLE CRINKLE

WIFE: 700 chits. Seven - hundred! What have they done, sir? Oh, they must have done something brave!

HUSBAND: Whoooo-wheeee! And who said I had to go haul stiffnecks from the crick anyhoo?

WIFE: (EXPECTANT) So... My boys?

GOV'T OFFICIAL: Transmogrified into a burbling puddle of goo, I'm afraid.

WIFE: ...Oh.

GOV'T OFFICIAL: I trust you find the amount of chits... Sufficient?

WIFE: I... oh, well...

GOV'T OFFICIAL: (MAKES ODD GURGLING SOUND IN THROAT).

WIFE: Why that's mighty generous of you. Thank big chief for me.

GOV'T OFFICIAL: Oh, Big Chief is always watching, and he's quite happy. Nothing makes him happier than the sacrifices - er - bravery - of the young.

WIFE: (NOT THAT HAPPY) Oh good.

GOV'T OFFICIAL: Don't forget the share of the bounty you'll need to give to the cause, of course.

WIFE: Of course.

HUSBAND: Hey, Tell him bout them other batch of mind criminals!

WIFE: I - no, it's OK Vernon---

GOV' T OFFICIAL: Mind criminals?

WIFE: No no no, it's not, well, uh...

HUSBAND: (OFF) You told me you seen her! Mrs.
Jaworski!

WIFE: Well it's really nothing, it could be
explained...

GOV' T OFFICIAL: Whhhhhatt is it?

WIFE: Um, well, it's just that I saw her coming
home the other night with... books.

GOV' T OFFICIAL: And you didn't see her starting a fire?

WIFE: No... not a fire to be seen.

GOV' T OFFICIAL: We'll take care of it. Thanks, you are a
great patriot.

WIFE: My pleasure to help the cause.

GOV' T OFFICIAL: Praise Big Chief.

WIFE: Praise big chief.

006 SFX: DOOR SLAMS.

WIFE: Well... wasn't that some visit...

HUSBAND: (SOBBING)

WIFE: Vernon? Oh, I know Vernon... Vernon I know, our little Willy, Huston, and Edgar --

HUSBAND: (BREAKING THROUGH THE TEARS) I was... so worried... they'd try to take my tellie! ... Hey, what're you worried about?

WIFE: Oh, just... nothing. You turn back your little brain busting box now, everything gonna be all right.

007 SFX: ~~TELEVISION BACK ON, MORE GUNS, SCREAMS,~~
~~SIRENS~~

WIFE: (DOUBTING) Everything gonna be... all right. The government's got everything under control. Big Chief is gonna save us all. Every last one of us.