

(HOPKINS *exits.*)

BILL

Go on then!

SID

^{Sod}
Fuck off, Monty!

BILL

Win 'em over.

SID

If you're not back in half an hour we'll drag the river.

(MONTY *leaves.*)

SCENE FOUR

In the factory, machines working, so they're shouting at each other.

SANDRA

Who else is B grade?

CONNIE

The cleaners. Unskilled assembly.

RITA

My Eddie.

CASS

We ain't unskilled.

BERYL

It ain't just anyone who can freddle a needle!

RITA

You have to take three tests to get in here.

(*Enter MONTY.*)

MONTY

Alright ladies, I've spoken to the management –

BERYL

– bastards!

MONTY

– and we're gonna insist on registering a formal grievance.

RITA

Hang on! I just thought, what about the girls at Dunton?

CASS

Yeah, they do the same job as us.

MONTY

They have, anomalously, been given C grade. Skilled.

ALL

(*Uproar / Complaints.*)

MONTY They work in a pressurised environment.

SANDRA We got our own environmental problems here.

MONTY Like what?

(A dead pigeon falls from the ceiling and lands at MONTY'S feet.)

BERYL Like that!

CASS I'll betcha Ford's American factories ain't like this boy!

MONTY We go to Head Office tomorrow, me, Connie, and Sid.

CONNIE I don't want Sid. I want one of the girls.

CASS Take Beryl.

RITA Yeah, she can do the swearing for you.

(They laugh.)

CLARE – Don't take Beryl, she could start a –

CASS – fight.

CLARE – in a –

BERYL – plough field.

RITA We want a fight!

CLARE I'll go. I'll tell 'em.

BERYL What would you say, Clare?

Music No. 5: WOSSNAME

CLARE *(Starts speaking, and ends up singing.)* I'd say . . . er . . . er . . . hang
on . . . er . . .

WELL 'ERE IS THE FING
THE FING 'ERE IS THIS

AND DON'T NO-ONE START
TAKING THE PISS

COS WHEN SUMMINK AIN'T RIGHT
THEN SUMMINK IS WRONG
THERE'S A SMELL IN THE AIR
AND THE PONG IS QUITE STRONG

I BEEN AT THIS GAME
SINCE I WAS FOURTEEN
I KNOW MY WHATSISCALLED
DYAKNOWHWATIMEAN?

SO OUJAH KAPIVUWAT
LAH DEE DAH AND GOODBYE
I AM WHAT I AM
COS I'M ME, AIN'T I?

MONTY Is this a wind up?

CLARE
I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON
YES I KNOW THE GAME
AND I KNOW THE WHATSIT
ABOUT THE WHATISNAME

AND I KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT
AND I KNOW WHAT'S FAIR
BUT SUMMING IN THIS FING
WELL, I DUNNO – AIN'T THERE

WOMEN
(OO ...)
(OO ...)
(OO ...)
(OO ...)

(OO ...)
(OO ...)
(OO ...)
(OO ...)

THERE'S LOTSA – YA KNOW
BLAH DEE BLAH DEE BLAH
YEAH NO, YEAH NO, YEAH NO
AND OUJAH OUJHA

BUT I TALK IT STRAIGHT
AND I TALK IT PLAIN
WHAT YOU SEE IS
WHAT YOU WOTSANAME

CLARE
LIFE HERE AIN'T FAIR
AND PEOPLE GET THE BLAME,
YEAH YEAH (YEAH YEAH)
BUT YOU STAY FIRM AND TRUE
STICK TO THE WHATSITSNAME
THAT'S DEEP INSIDE YOU
OUJAH, OUJAH

CLARE (*Huge, anthemic.*)
I'M ME

WOMEN
SHE'S HER

CLARE
AIN'T I

WOMEN
NO D'UH

CLARE
AND WE DON'T SEE EYE-TO-EYE

WOMEN
SEE EYE . . . , GET HER!

CLARE
AND YOU

WOMEN
YOU WHO?

CLARE
YOU'RE YOU

WOMEN
US TOO!

CLARE
AND WE AIN'T GOT
A BLEEDIN' CLUE

WOMEN
(OOOH . . .)
(OOOH . . .)
(YEAH, YEAH)
(OOOH . . .)

ALL Speak for yourself, love!

CLARE
THE PAST IS IN FRONT
AND THE FUTURE'S BEHIND
FANKS FOR HEARING ME OUT
IT'S A WEIGHT OF MY CHEST

WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE
AND NOW WE'RE HERE
THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

RITA Your heart's in the right place, Clare.

BERYL But they ^{cocked} fucked everything else up.

CONNIE It won't work, love.

CLARE Why not?

BERYL 'Cause you couldn't find your own arse wiv both 'ands!

(CLARE goes back to work, machining.)

CONNIE What about you, Rita?

ALL Rita! / Yeah Rita! / Rita O'Grady! / Good idea!

RITA Me? No! I can't talk union stuff.

CASS It's a day off, girl!

BERYL Berni Inn. Free lunch.

RITA Yeah?! Ooh, alright then.

BERYL Machine off! Everyone. We ain't doing no more work today.

MONTY No! All workplace disputes have to be arbitrated in accordance
with the grievance procedure. Or we'll be up shit creek without a
paddle.

BERYL If all you want's a paddle mate, I'll fucking knit you one.

SANDRA You come in here, Monty, swinging your dick like you're running the country, well you ain't running the country.

CLARE Yeah. No. You ain't running the country, that's someone else.

(*End of scene.*)

Music No. 5a: BIG BEN

SCENE FIVE

Big Ben chimes. HAROLD WILSON with three CIVIL SERVANTS.

HAROLD How many strikes has the UK suffered this year?

AIDE 1 Twenty-six thousand, Prime Minister.

HAROLD We're 66th for industrial productivity, behind Chad. Where is Chad?

AIDE 2 65th, Sir.

AIDE 1 Chad is a small African nation with seventeen goats, and a string farm.

HAROLD Seventeen goats, and a string farm, and they're ahead of Great Britain?

AIDE 1 All their goats work.

AIDE 2 Britain is currently top of the world league table for industrial unrest.

ALL Champeeeees!

AIDE 3 You can take your coat off Prime Minister. You're indoors.

HAROLD Gannex pay me to wear it. At all times. It's work. I'm trying to set an example . . .