

SERIES TWO

**THE GAMES**

EPISODE

**01**

**IN THE PUBLIC  
INTEREST**

**BROADCAST DATE  
19/06/00**



**SUPER** We wish to warn viewers that the following program is rated F. It contains language, political references and visual elements.

**ABC VOICEOVER** Tonight's episode of the popular documentary series 'The Games' has been held over and will be broadcast at a later date. This evening, we present a special program in the public interest. Viewers are warned that the following program is rated F. It contains language, political references and visual elements.

*A MONTAGE OF ACTUAL NEWS FOOTAGE CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:*

*A shot of Antonio Samaranch and IOC officials.*

*ANTONIO SAMARANCH And the winner is... Sydney.  
NEWSREPORTER 1 It's not all good news with the 36 million dollars...  
In budget cuts still keeping it down...  
NEWSREPORTER 2 Antonio Samaranch has warned...*

*Michael Knight & John Fahey hugging.*

*NEWSREPORTER 3 Homebush Stadium construction site...  
NEWSREPORTER 2 IOC Board members were giving little away...  
NEWSREPORTER 3 Claims of widespread corruption...  
NEWSREPORTER 4 And the marketing of the games brought an enormous public response.  
NEWSREPORTER 5 Public outcry over secret marketing of tickets.*

*Shot of John.*

*LIZ JACKSON VOICE/OVER: Tonight, John Clarke, Olympic Supremo is a man under pressure.*

*Bryan, John and Gina at a press conference.*

**JOHN** Does anyone have any questions that don't have anything to do with lacrosse?

**JOURNALIST** How much over budget are the games at the moment?

**JOHN** Are there any more lacrosse questions?

**BRYAN** No, I can answer that.

**LIZ JACKSON V/O** With two months to go the greatest event ever staged in Australia is \$194 million dollars over budget. The Games are facing a storm of protest over the country's refusal to repeal mandatory sentencing, and the condition of the Aboriginal population. And the threat of boycott from Cuba, West Africa, the Balkan Federation and China.

For Clarke personally, too, the stakes are high. He has long acknowledged that he longs to go on to higher things in the international Olympic movement and it is upon Sydney that these hopes depend.

*John walking and trying to put ticket in turnstile. The ticket doesn't fit. John is unimpressed. He jumps over the turnstile and walks towards the lift.*

*John at home.*

**JOHN** No, I don't think I'm incompetent, no. I don't think I'm out of my depth. It's a huge job. Anybody who has been following these Games since we've had the right to stage them would be aware of that. You can't know what's going to happen when you take on a job like this. Nobody knew how big this job was going to be.

*Gina is sitting in a café reading the paper. A waiter brings her coffee.*

**LIZ JACKSON V/O** Among those who have watched Clarke operating at close hand is Gina Riley, head-hunted out of private industry herself and now working in what many may regard as the most demanding marketing job in Australia.

- GINA** I think he's one of the genuinely great Australians, I really do. I don't think anyone has any idea of the contribution John has made. It's quite fantastic.
- Bryan is filmed in his office*
- LIZ JACKSON V/O** Long-time associate Bryan Dawe, once Head of Development with Pacific Orient, is responsible for the finances of the organisation. If it was listed on the stock exchange, the Games would currently be Australia's fourth biggest company.
- BRYAN** He's got a very soft side, John. You don't see it very often but it's there. I remember we were once in Milan and we were sitting out on this fifteenth-century balcony. We were drinking a local liqueur called 'Mist of Heaven' and all of a sudden John just started to weep. I don't think he was unhappy. I mean, we'd drunk about three bottles of the stuff and the weather was very beautiful and we were just sitting out there looking over the harbour.
- Footage of the news bulletin announcing John's appointment.*
- NEWSREADER** In a surprise move today, the top logistics job at the Sydney Olympics has gone to a rank outsider, sports and business management honcho, John Clarke, largely overlooked by insiders... (trails off)
- LIZ JACKSON V/O** Five years ago, John Clarke was holidaying in Zimbabwe with his family when he received word that the Sydney 2000 Games was looking for someone to head up the difficult but extremely important logistics operation. The task would be to supervise the mounting of the biggest event in Australia's history.
- Footage of John speaking to swimming pool staff.*
- JOHN** I'm just going to roll my arm over in there. Five hundred laps, just the usual.
- RECEPTIONIST** Rightyo.
- JOHN** If I'm not back in three weeks send a search party.
- RECEPTIONIST** Okey dokey.
- JOHN** (Going through the turnstile) Oh, you fixed that. (The sliding doors open) And you fixed that too!
- John at home.*
- JOHN** Well, I've always responded pretty well to a challenge. I can remember when I was a kid once playing cricket with my cousins on the lawn at the back of my grandmother's place and somebody said, 'I bet you can't put a ball on the roof of that big tool shed at the bottom of the garden', and I can still remember thinking, 'You reckon I can't do that, don't you?'
- LIZ JACKSON** And could you do it?
- JOHN** No. It was too far away.
- John swimming laps.*
- LIZ JACKSON V/O** It was only three months later, when John and his team were beginning to build the complex web of strategic alliances and industry contacts to bring the Olympic dream to life, that he realised it would need all the reserves that he had often called on during his own time as an athlete.
- Interview with David Hookes.*
- DAVID HOOKES** I think it was the 1972 NSW cross-country championships. John was a very good runner but there were a lot of very good runners in the field that day. It was a really wet day and they had to cross a bog, I think, at the bottom of a valley. John got knocked over and I thought he'd ever get up.
- John in his office.*

- JOHN** Yes, I remember that.
- LIZ JACKSON** And what happened?
- JOHN** Well, nothing happened. I couldn't get up.  
*Bryan in his office.*
- BRYAN** Yes, he had some disappointments, but John could have been a world-class runner. No doubt about that. He wasn't. But he could have been.  
*Newspaper headline: 'JOHN WHO?'*
- LIZ JACKSON** When John was actually appointed the news didn't meet with universal approval.  
*John in his office.*
- JOHN** No it didn't. I think there were probably quite a few people who thought they had this job. I think I was a bit of a surprise to the people who thought this job was going to go to someone else. The way this town works is that there are a great many strategic alliances; there are people with these connections here, people with those connections there. A lot of networking goes on and, of course, I don't do that.  
*Michael Kroger speaks to us.*
- MICHAEL KROGER** Well, he rang me and said that this job was going, that I knew how these things worked. He said he wouldn't network – he made that very clear. He then started muttering about whether I knew what gifts were appropriate for the delegates who were making the decision.
- LIZ JACKSON V/O** Another Clarke supporter at the time was former politician Nick Thetake.  
*Hon. N. Thetake is filmed in his office.*
- HON N THETAKE** He was the stand-out candidate. There were others with strong claims, but no-one with the mix that we were looking for – the strong credentials in public administration and private business, his personal background in sport – it just wasn't there. John's appointment was unanimous.  
*Shots of Allan Ronaldson entering a building.*
- LIZ JACKSON** One of the people who worked with John a lot at that time, who shared the triumph of bringing the 2000 Games to Sydney and was also on the Olympic Network of Allied Nations with John was Allan Ronaldson.
- ALLAN RONALDSON** Oh look, we'd known each other a while. We'd both had involvement with ONAN for a good long time. I'd worked with John on a number of projects.  
*John in his office.*
- LIZ JACKSON** Had you always got on?
- JOHN** Yes, we'd always got on. A very good team, Allan and I.  
*At Allan's office.*
- ALLAN RONALDSON** Yes, we'd always got on.  
*News footage of venue development and ticket packages being printed.*
- NEWSREPORTER V/O** The marketing of the Games brought an enormous public response. More than a million Australians applied for tickets, many of them...
- LIZ JACKSON V/O** While preparations seemed to go well in the early stages, problems with the allocation of Olympic tickets turned a dream run with the media into a running sore and threatened to stop the juggernaut in its tracks.

*Back to the television screen.*

**NEWSREPORTER** ...to find ways to provide more seats for ordinary Australians...

*John at home.*

**JOHN** No, I don't think it was a fiasco. We had put in place the most sophisticated ticketing system available anywhere in the world at that time. We couldn't take a trick with the media, though. I think the media has a great deal to answer for in that period.

*Footage of John speaking to the media.*

**JOHN** Yes, there'll be more than enough tickets to go round. Everyone who applied for tickets will get something.

*Different day, John speaking to media.*

**JOHN** There are no special ticketing arrangements for the rich, no.

*Different day, John at a press conference.*

**JOHN** I knew nothing about any special ticketing arrangements to get special ticketing arrangements for the rich, no.

*John at a different press conference.*

**JOHN** I knew about those arrangements, yes, but not about the extent of them.

*John with hard hat being questioned by media.*

**JOHN** In retrospect, the ticketing packages were a mistake, yes. Next question.

*John in press conference.*

**JOHN** It appears we lied about the ticketing packages from the very beginning, yes.

*John in hard hat at a stadium.*

**JOHN** No, well, we can't provide tickets that we haven't got can we? We haven't got them.

*John speaking to the media.*

**JOHN** No, you ask me whether I think we've got anything to apologise about and I say no, no, we don't. Not at all. Who are you?

*John at home.*

**JOHN** Look, there was a difficulty with the tickets. Of course there was. There were some mistakes made with the whole ticketing process. But I think it was handled very well and I think the public ended up being satisfied that we'd secured for them the best possible deal.

**LIZ JACKSON** Would you be prepared to repeat that to the camera, please?

**JOHN** (Looking into the camera) Certainly. I'm satisfied that ultimately the public was happy that they knew that we'd secured for them the best possible deal on the tickets.

*More news footage.*

**NEWSREADER** And in yet another embarrassment over Olympic ticketing, organisers have been quick to withdraw 260,000 hockey tickets which were issued with the rowing venue printed on them.

*Shots of Nicholas at the Ministry*

**LIZ JACKSON** Another in the firing line over the ticketing problems at the time was Ministerial Secretary, Nicholas Bell.

*Nicholas is in his office.*

- NICHOLAS** The decision about ticketing came out of John's area of responsibility, really. It wasn't something the Minister had any control over.
- LIZ JACKSON** And so you had nothing to do with them?
- NICHOLAS** No, I had nothing to do with them. Carriage of the ticketing procedures was solely in the hands of John and his people.
- LIZ JACKSON** What was your impression of those ticketing arrangements?
- NICHOLAS** Personally? Well, it was a fiasco. It was a PR disaster. We lost the public confidence. We put the media offside. They've never trusted us since. I mean, why would they?
- Bryan is in his office.*
- BRYAN** Well, it was a great idea. If it had come off we would have been national heroes.
- Gina in café.*
- GINA** The main thing is the people who did get seats have got them and are going to go along to those events and are going to have a wonderful time. If their seats are any good.
- Shots of Allan Ronaldson coming out of Customs and into the Airport proper.*
- LIZ JACKSON V/O** More problems were just around the corner in 1998. With ONAN under increasing pressure internationally from allegations of corruption, Allan Ronaldson was accused of having received the gift of a small hotel on the Scottish coast from a man named Walter Anker, an important player in the Uruguayan bid for the 2006 winter games.
- Footage of Allan Ronaldson speaking to the media..*
- ALLAN RONALDSON** Ah, I won't be saying anything. I will, however, be making a statement once I've spoken to the other members of the ONAN committee. Thankyou.
- John in his office.*
- JOHN** Well, yes, we went back a long way. That certainly wasn't an easy time.
- Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*
- ALLAN RONALDSON** Yes, I was hurt. We were both on the Board and we'd known each other for a very long time.
- John in his office.*
- JOHN** I supported Allan Ronaldson as much as I thought I could.
- Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*
- ALLAN RONALDSON** No, no, he dropped me like a stone.
- Shots of ONAN Headquarters*
- LIZ JACKSON V/O** Further revelations followed a few months later, and in November of that year, fifteen ONAN committee members were cashiered when they were found to have received an estimated \$4 million worth of jewellery from a man who gave his name as Mr Tabernacle Choir.
- John in his office.*
- JOHN** Yes, it was stupid. It was a very stupid thing for them to have done.
- Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*
- ALLAN RONALDSON** Yes, look, you know, it was an internal matter that should have been treated as one. There were people there at that time who, I think, allowed it to become so big in the international media that eventually they'd be able to say that internal procedures couldn't deal with it and someone was

going to get burnt. And that was going to be me.

**LIZ JACKSON** And was John Clarke one of those people?

**ALLAN RONALDSON** Yes.

*Ronaldson walking through the airport with bags.*

**LIZ JACKSON V/O** Ronaldson survived the purge, although in July 1999 he turned up at a friend's house in a 65-foot yacht. And two months later he appeared before the ONAN ethics committee and was told that, as a result of their internal investigation, he was to be given another yacht, two houses and a farm in Tuscany.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** I felt at this stage Allan Ronaldson still deserved a chance to clear his name. There was still some doubt. Don't forget that Allan had worked very, very hard for a very, very long time for the movement. I thought that there was still a chance, in my mind, that all of this could turn out to have been a mistake.

**LIZ JACKSON** Did you ever see him with a yacht?

**JOHN** No, categorically, I never once saw Allan with a yacht. I did see him with a light aircraft once, at a meeting.

**LIZ JACKSON** And where did he get that from?

**JOHN** He told me he'd won that in a card game.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** No, no, I didn't get much support from John at that time at all. I remember I had to go to a dinner with him at one stage in Oslo. We were both there representing Australia. I don't think he spoke to me at any stage of the evening.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** What Allan had been doing – I found this out later, of course – was that he'd been compiling a dossier on some overseas trips that I'd made.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** Well, it was quite interesting. In 1997 he turned up at a ceremony to celebrate the demolition of the Berlin Wall, representing Australia, with a bloke who did repairs on his car.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** Well he was German. He spoke German.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** In August he went to Colorado for a fortnight, at our expense, with a landscape gardener who was doing work on his beach house.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** Well, that's not true. He wasn't working on the beach house.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** There was this bloke he owed some money to, a roofing contractor. We paid for this guy to go on a fact-finding mission in Egypt.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** Yes, I don't think Allan served himself particularly well at that time. The point at that time

was that Allan himself was under investigation and he could have cleared this whole business up at that time. He didn't take that opportunity. He chose not to do that. And, more importantly, what he did do at that time, in fact, was lie.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** I was treated like a leper. I couldn't get the phone to ring.

**LIZ JACKSON** Did you talk to John Clarke at that time?

**ALLAN RONALDSON** No, no, John wouldn't have anything to do with me.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** I didn't speak against Allan. In fact I wasn't even at the meeting where his case was discussed.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** No, he didn't even go to the meeting.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** I couldn't speak in favour of Allan. No, I wasn't even at the meeting.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** No, he avoided going to the meeting altogether. I mean, he was going to hang me out to dry. He was going to sacrifice me so he could survive. That's what he did.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** Well, I didn't.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** He did.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** No, I didn't.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** Well, he did.

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** I didn't. Allan Ronaldson got a very fair hearing. I think if you ask, even Allan Ronaldson will say he got a very fair hearing over this matter.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** (Laughs) No, he didn't actually say that, did he?

*John in his office.*

**JOHN** The problem was, Allan Ronaldson had not been completely frank about what he was doing and he got found out.

*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*

**ALLAN RONALDSON** Yes, of course I feel disappointed in John. We'd been friends for a very long time. Yes, I feel disappointed.

**LIZ JACKSON** What would you do if he walked in here now?

- ALLAN RONALDSON** I wouldn't give him the satisfaction.  
*John at home.*
- JOHN** Ultimately, of course, I was called to give evidence before the committee myself.
- LIZ JACKSON** Was that difficult?
- JOHN** That was one of the most difficult things I've ever done in my life.  
*Allan Ronaldson at the airport lounge.*
- ALLAN RONALDSON** No, I never found out what he'd said.  
*John at home.*
- JOHN** Well, it's a sad thing to have to say about someone who has been really a very close friend for nearly 30 years, but I had to answer the question. Did I believe Allan Ronaldson was a dishonest, untrustworthy, treacherous lying thief? And I had to say 'yes'.  
*Allan Ronaldson walking out of airport.*
- LIZ JACKSON** Allan Ronaldson resigned from ONAN in October of that year, but by then John Clarke had developed problems of his own. Two of his mother's sisters had apparently spent \$16,000 on light refreshments while attending the annual nose flute festival as the guests of the Peruvian government.  
*Incriminating stills are flashed up on-screen of John with his two aunts in South America. They are having a very nice time.*  
*John is interviewed in his office.*
- JOHN** There's been an investigation into that trip and when the results are known I have every confidence, every confidence, that I will be fully exonerated. I have repaid all of those amounts. I took two elderly family members and I paid for everything myself. Everything.  
*Gina in café.*
- GINA** I don't think there's any doubt. I did the bookings for that trip myself. I was appalled when they said there was something untoward about the way it was done. I felt responsible.  
*John in his office.*
- LIZ JACKSON** How do you feel when you get personal criticism? Does it hurt?
- JOHN** Personal criticism? I don't pay much attention to personal criticism, to be honest. Who said something?
- LIZ JACKSON** Well, it has been said that you're arrogant, for example, hasn't it?
- JOHN** Well what complete barking moron said that?
- LIZ JACKSON** You don't think you're arrogant?
- JOHN** No, I don't think I'm arrogant, no. I think I'm determined. I like winning. I don't like to be beaten. Never did. I'm probably not the person to ask. Talk to the people I work with. Talk to the people who work with me every day.  
*Bryan in his office.*
- BRYAN** Arrogant? John? No. Arrogant? No, not exactly.  
*Gina in café.*
- GINA** John? Arrogant? No, (Thinks about it)... no, (Sounds less convinced) no...

*John at home.*

**LIZ JACKSON** It's been an interesting time for John and his family and the journey's not over yet.

**JOHN** Oh well, we'll get there. I mean, what this is all about in the end is putting on the best Olympics that we can put on, inviting the best athletes in the world to come here to Sydney and letting them see what a fantastic city (corrects himself) country, this really is.

*The Hon. Nick Thetake in his office.*

**HON N THETAKE** It's going to be great. It's going to put \$700 million into the state's economy. It's good for the economy, it's good for the market, it's good for business.

**LIZ JACKSON** Is it good for anyone else?

**NICK THETAKE** Good for anyone else? Yes, small business, middle-sized business, regional business, rural business, banks.

*John at home.*

**JOHN** Yes, I have regrets, I suppose. I'd like, for example, to be able to get out of the office a little bit more and perhaps spend some time with some of the charity organisations that I'm involved with.

**LIZ JACKSON** And which ones are they?

**JOHN** Oh, Bicycles for the Deaf, African Dog Hospital, something at Thredbo. American Express. Countless others.

Yes, there have been a few disappointments and obviously when mud is thrown some of it's always going to stick. I've been disappointed about certain things that have been said: things that have been said about my family, said to my family, to my aunts, to my children in the school yard.

But, you know, it's a big job. You're not going to be able to put a roast dinner on the table, are you, unless a few animals get slaughtered?

And if you don't have some steel, you're going to bend. You know, you'll be weak. And anyone who thinks this is an easy job, you know, have a look at my life. Last year I was at home for four weekends. So far this year, I think I have been overseas sixteen times. This time last week I was in Monaco. This time next week I'm going to be on an island in the middle of a lake in Provence. I mean, if anyone else wants to swap jobs with me, let me know, I mean, provided they have the right experience and the right qualifications and things. In fact, you can forget about that. There isn't anyone else who could do this job.

**LIZ JACKSON** What about Ken Gregan, Naomi Kostas or Tony Nitski?

**JOHN** No, no, no, no, there isn't anyone else who could do this job. I shouldn't have said anyone who wanted to do this job could swap with me. That was probably an error of judgement. There isn't anyone else who could do this job. (To the camera) And you can turn that off now. Now.

*Shots of family snaps*

**LIZ JACKSON** The one constant in John's life is his family. His wife and five children: Emma, James, Hamish, Rochelle, Janice, Bevan and Michael, are kept out of the spotlight but are clearly the single most important piece in the very complex Clarke jigsaw. (To John) John, do you see much of your family?

**JOHN** Who?

**LIZ JACKSON** Your family?

**JOHN** Oh, I see them as often as I can, obviously, yes. Whether it's up at the school sports or at swimming training or helping with homework or perhaps just having a few kicks. I think you have to spend as much time as you possibly can with your children. Just a minute. (To someone off-screen) What? No, not now, mate. Daddy's working.

- LIZ JACKSON** What do you do to relax? Do you find you get much time to relax?
- JOHN** I don't get as much time as I'd like, no. I like a beer. Certainly I do. I like to have a few drinks with friends. Yes. And do. Often.
- John walking along beach with dog then building sandcastle with boy.*
- LIZ JACKSON V/O** An intensely private man, John Clarke refuses to be drawn on who his friends are.
- JOHN** I have a lot of friends, yes.
- LIZ JACKSON** Who are they?
- JOHN** Oh, there are far too many to name. I was in business for many years; obviously I have friends from the business world. Friends from sport; I have good, strong friends from there. I have friends whom I've known for forty years. I have friends in the Olympic movement.
- LIZ JACKSON** It's been said that ONAN is undemocratic, hasn't it? That it is a closed, secretive, elite group.
- JOHN** Yes, but only by riffraff.
- In another room, the ABC News bulletin music starts and the news begins.*
- NEWSREADER** Olympics officials in Paris are tonight meeting to discuss claims that high-ranking ONAN board member and controversial Australian logistics supremo John Clarke spent ten days during Easter of this year living in the Palace of Versailles with two aunts and an air-conditioning contractor from Hunters Hill. Mr Clarke was unavailable for comment this even although Qantas has confirmed a party of four in the name of Clarke was listed as travelling Sydney to Paris on the dates in question.
- John, who is half-listening to the bulletin, gets up and walks out of shot.*
- JOHN** Excuse me a minute. What is that? Good God. That has got to stop. (To camera crew) Stay there. Stay where you are. That is absolutely outrageous.
- The camera crew follows John to the television in the lounge room. John picks up the mobile phone, turns off the television volume and starts to speak.*
- JOHN** Hey, it's me. Get me James Strong. This is an absolute set-up. I can smell that prick Ronaldson. Yes, look, get the lawyer and you, here, my house, in half an hour.
- (To camera crew) All you people will have to go. Come on, all you people will have to clear off. Get out through the kitchen. (Into phone) I'll talk to you in a minute.
- John pushes the cameras towards the door. The camera pans and sees a teenage girl on the stairs. John comes out to the hallway, still on the phone. John pushing camera people out of hallway. The doorbell rings and knocks at the door begin.*
- JOHN** (Still on the phone) No, no, no. Oh god, hang on a minute, the bloody doorbell's going. Ah, (to teenage girl) Emma, get the door will you please darling? Tell them Daddy's not here.
- JANICE** I'm Janice, Daddy.
- JOHN** Yes, Janice, of course you are Janice. Just get the door, will you please?
- JANICE** What do I say?
- JOHN** (To camera crew) Will you people get out through the kitchen? Just get out through the kitchen. Clear off. (Into phone) Hang on I'll call you back in a minute. (To Janice) Pardon?
- JANICE** What do I say?
- JOHN** Tell them Daddy's in Europe. You haven't seen Daddy for a bit. You think he's in Switzerland.
- JANICE** Will I say you're with Auntie Fahey and Aunty Linda?

- JOHN** No, no, no, no. Don't say I'm with aunty anybody. Don't say I'm with aunty anybody. You haven't seen me for a bit. You know, I'll be back in six weeks.
- (Into phone) Can I ring you back? A little bit of a crisis.*
- (To crew) Listen: I've told you people to get out. Now, do it. (He pushes the camera violently and the picture disappears)*
- ABC VOICEOVER** We apologise for the loss of picture and sound that some viewers may be experiencing. We'll rejoin the program as soon as possible.
- The camera comes back on. John is in the kitchen. A teenage boy is on the couch. The crew is still filming.*
- JOHN** Hey, Hamish, have a look out the backyard, will you, and tell me if you can see anyone. Are you listening to me, Hamish?
- MICHAEL** Dad, I'm Michael.
- JOHN** Yes, Michael. Good on you, Michael. Do us a favour, will you? Look out in the backyard and tell me what you can see.
- MICHAEL** Hey Dad, there's a guy out there with a camera.
- JOHN** Well, go out there and tell him you're a policeman and explain to him that he's in breach of regulations and if he's not off the property in one minute you're going to call the police.
- MICHAEL** If I'm a policeman, haven't we already called the police?
- JOHN** Well tell them you're going to call more police. Bigger ones. (Lunges at camera crew) Listen, you people, I've told you once. (The picture disappears again)
- ABC VOICEOVER** We apologise for the loss of picture and sound some viewers may be experiencing. We'll rejoin the program as soon as...
- The camera comes on again and the picture reappears. John is on the phone near a television with him on it. The camera is on the floor.*
- JOHN** Hello, is that the ABC? Yes, it's John Clarke here. You've got me on television at the moment. I want this program taken off. I want it taken off now. We've got a bit of a crisis on here. Come on, you've had your fun. I think we've all had a good time. It's time to clear off, isn't it?
- Well, run the next program. What is the next program? Well, run it now. Well, it's only a few minutes early. No-one will notice. You never run anything on time anyway, do you, down there?
- No. No, I think that would be inappropriate. Do not try to bribe me. No, it's not a trade-off situation.
- Because Channel Seven have purchased the rights to the Olympics. I can't do that.
- No, no, no, it can't be done. If I was on what board? The board of the ABC? I don't know anything about broadcasting.
- He's not, is he? How the hell did he get on the board? Really?
- Well, look, I'll tell you what. I'm on TV now. You've got a camera here. Take this program off or I'm going to smash this camera. Do it now. I don't care what you run. Run a promo, you know, 'Set against the searing backdrop of a century torn apart by conflict'... Some crap like that. I see it all the time. Run the credits for this program. Name the people who make this rubbish.
- I tell you what, I want this taken off and I want it taken off now. Take it off now. I'm still looking at and it's still on. Is this your camera?
- Right!
- John's foot as he smashes camera. The picture disappears.*