

SERIES TWO

THE GAMES

EPISODE

12

FOUR CORNERS

BROADCAST DATE
04/09/00



John is getting his bags out of a taxi.

JOHN (To taxi driver.) Thank you. Thanks very much.

He walks with his bags through the carpark and sees Gina. She is getting out of a car which he has not seen before.

JOHN Ah, good morning.

GINA Oh, morning.

JOHN How are you?

GINA Fine, thanks.

JOHN Where's your car?

John and Gina start walking to the lifts.

GINA I had an argument with the wall over there last night.

JOHN Yes, I discovered that recently.

GINA How was your corporate breakfast this morning?

JOHN How did you know I'm doing a corporate breakfast this morning?

GINA You've still got your name tag on.

JOHN Oh, have I?

GINA And you've got a bit of egg on your tie.

JOHN Oh, have I?

GINA And you've got a serviette coming out of your pocket.

JOHN Oh, have I?

GINA And you told me you were speaking at a corporate breakfast this morning.

JOHN Oh, did I?

GINA Canberra?

JOHN Yes. So have you sold 180 million Olympic tickets overnight?

GINA Yes.

JOHN Good on you.

GINA Why are we in this position, John? Surely the corporate packages must have earned us some money.

JOHN The corporate packages went well, yes.

GINA How many did we sell?

JOHN Well that's not the only way to look at it, of course.

GINA But that's the question.

JOHN I realise that's the question. It's not the only way to look at the issue though, is it?

GINA Well, who bought them?

JOHN Enormous interest. People have expressed enormous...

GINA Interest?

JOHN Yes.

GINA Why haven't they bought them?

JOHN I don't know, Gina. I don't know why people don't buy things.

GINA Well, you must have some idea.

JOHN I currently don't, no. I'll pop out to the mind-reader at lunchtime though, and get that information for you.

I was looking at the official program on the plane.

GINA Oh yes.

JOHN I see you've listed everybody who helped put the Olympics on.

GINA Yes.

JOHN 'Good on you', it says.

GINA Yes.

JOHN You realise Bryan's not there?

GINA What?

JOHN You and I are listed, but there's no mention of Bryan.

GINA Oh God!

JOHN And whose idea were the limericks?

GINA Well, somebody had an idea to do some zany stuff on some prominent Australians.

JOHN Well, if you don't mind my saying so...

GINA Look, John, if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. Did you see the one on Tom Cruise?

JOHN If you can't say anything nice John, don't say anything at all.

Bryan walks to his office doorway to talk to Tim at reception.

BRYAN Tim.

TIM Yes?

BRYAN Has John been in?

TIM No, not yet, no.

BRYAN Do you know where he is?

TIM No, sorry, we haven't seen him.

Bryan goes back into his office and reads the letter that accompanies a videotape.

BRYAN 'I am a sports psychologist who gives motivational lectures to sporting teams and individuals. As a great admirer of the Olympics I have put together a small motivational talk for all of you at the Games office. If requested I would be happy to come in personally and offer whatever assistance I can. Yours sincerely, Harry "the Tank" Matthews.'

John and Gina in lift.

- GINA** Do you know anything about this security exercise?
- JOHN** Oh, bugger. Is that this morning too?
- GINA** What is it?
- JOHN** Something that Nicholas has organised. They put the rowing venue on red alert and someone's got to try and break into it.
- GINA** Can't we just tell them we couldn't get in?
- JOHN** No, they'll want a fair test of the security system.
- GINA** Well, I haven't got time. Oh, here we go.
Gina walks out of lift, leaving John.
- JOHN** Well, it's quite important.
Doors close and John goes with lift.
- JOHN** Oh, good, all right then. I'll do it. Thanks for your help, Gina.
In Bryan's office, Tim and Bryan are watching Harry 'the Tank' Matthews's video. It is shot in Harry's home and is somewhat grainy. Harry loves his sport however, and is a man of passion and seriousness.
- HARRY** Everyone who's ever played any sport knows how you people feel at this stage. We all know that feeling when you're at the bottom of the division and you're facing relegation and things just couldn't get any worse. Sure, there are times when you just want to give up. You've done the work, you've done the training, you've put in the hours. But every time you go out there you get your arse kicked. You wonder why you bother.
Nicholas walks into Gina's office.
- NICHOLAS** Gina, have you seen...?
She puts out a hand to stop him talking.
- GINA** I'll be two seconds.
Bryan is watching the video.
- HARRY** What I would say to all of you in the Games office is this. When you've had a run of outs, you've got to look deep into the core of your own inner self. You've got to find the reason why you did this thing in the first place. And you've got to rekindle that fire. You've got to fuel the hunger for that fire. And it's a burning hunger. You've got to rekindle that burning hunger for that fire and you've got to set fire to that fire and you've got to set it ablaze. Then you've got to start a fire and set yourself alight. And you've got to draw strength from that very, very powerful light. Now, I don't know whether you've ever seen that movie Rocky with that really big Italian guy...
Bryan has turned the video off. He considers Harry's message.
- BRYAN** He's quite good.
In Gina's office.
- NICHOLAS** What are you working on?
- GINA** I'm working on a contingency plan for some of these events in case we lose a day.
- NICHOLAS** Lose a day? We're not going to lose a day. It's all organised.
- GINA** I don't know if there's a Minister for Weather hidden up in the wood panelling of your offices,

Nicholas, but last year, on what would have been the first day of the track and field events, it hailed.

NICHOLAS I don't think that's going to happen

GINA Well, it didn't happen on the day of the marathon in 1988.

NICHOLAS Didn't it?

GINA No, it was 32 degrees then. You run a marathon in 32 degrees, you'll lose about 20 stone.

Tim is on the phone. The program is open in front of him.

TIM No, it's not there. No, there aren't any Schwerdts here at all. No, I don't know why not. I'm on television every week working in the main office organising the Games and I'm not even on the list.

Nicholas shuts Gina's office door and sits down.

NICHOLAS Have you seen John?

GINA He's doing some security exercise of yours.

NICHOLAS (remembers and laughs) Yes, he's probably being arrested.

GINA No, he's in the rowing venue. He just rang.

NICHOLAS What? He's inside the venue?

GINA Yes.

NICHOLAS How the hell did he get in there?

GINA Don't know.

NICHOLAS Anyway, I think we've got a few serious issues brewing.

GINA What sort of issues?

NICHOLAS I think some of these attempts to raise money are going to have to be watched very, very carefully.

GINA Nicholas, if the public ever find out the real cost of these Games they'll probably kill everyone involved.

NICHOLAS There's a right way of doing these things, Gina.

GINA Look, both of them have worked their guts out for these Games. I mean, if anyone believes in this thing it's John and Bryan. You know that.

NICHOLAS You've got to operate within the rules.

GINA If you'd done that in the first place, they wouldn't be out there trying to pull the fat out of the fire.

NICHOLAS I didn't come here for a lecture. I simply came here to ask if you knew where he is.

GINA Well I don't.

NICHOLAS Would you agree that the last thing we need at this particular point in time is another scandal?

GINA I would, yes.

NICHOLAS Right, well read this.

Nicholas throws a wad of paper on Gina's desk. She reads it. He left eyebrow travels northward.

John walks into the Games office with his bags.

TIM Morning, John.

JOHN Any news?

TIM The phones have been running hot, John.
He hands John his messages

JOHN Yes, I see.

TIM A bit of mail.
Bryan sticks his head out of his office

BRYAN Where have you been?

JOHN Me? I went to that security exercise.

BRYAN Was that this morning?

JOHN Yes, up at the rowing venue.

BRYAN No, earlier. I tried to get you at eight.

JOHN Oh, I was in Canberra last night.

BRYAN Have you just got back?

JOHN Yes. Forty-minute plane flight, half an hour waiting for a cab, 45 minutes into town, bit of a snarl up at Taylors Square, walk from there for half an hour with all of the gear, out to the rowing venue, back from the rowing venue, slight problem with the lifts, Bryan, but otherwise I've had a very pleasant time indeed.

BRYAN Pretty easy run then?

JOHN Wouldn't have missed it for the world, thank you.

BRYAN Have you had any food?

JOHN No. I had breakfast on the plane.
Gina comes into John's office. She is anxious.

GINA Nicholas was looking for you.

JOHN Yes, so I see, he's left a message.

GINA I'd get on to him if I were you.

JOHN Yes I will.

GINA I'd get on to him soon.

JOHN Yes

GINA I mean now.

JOHN Look, if you don't mind, I thought I might put my gear down, I thought I might inhale a couple of times and if it's not a direct personal affront to you, Gina, I thought I might squander a couple of nanoseconds in the consumption of a glass of water, because...
Bryan is leaving. She calls him back and confronts them both with the issue

GINA Bryan. Have either of you been contacted by Four Corners?

JOHN Four Corners, the television program?

GINA Yes.

BRYAN No.

- JOHN** No, I don't think so.
- GINA** You're going to be on it.
There is some concern in their look to each other
Nicholas is in a meeting with Mr A Cabsav, a senior ABC executive.
- NICHOLAS** Let's be reasonable. There is no point in broadcasting some of this material.
- CABSAV** It hasn't been decided yet, whether to broadcast the footage.
- NICHOLAS** I think it would be very dangerous if you do.
- CABSAV** Dangerous?
- NICHOLAS** Just in terms of the risk involved.
- CABSAV** What sort of risk are you talking about?
- NICHOLAS** Quite frankly we've got enough troubles at the moment without John and Bryan being on bloody Four Corners. I mean, this could jeopardise the whole thing.
- CABSAV** Jeopardise the Olympics?
- NICHOLAS** Yes. They're on in a minute.
- CABSAV** How are the Olympics going to be jeopardised?
- NICHOLAS** Look, the rest of the world's going to be all over this like a rash. Four Corners know that. That's why they're interested in the story. They don't care about the Olympics. It's very fashionable to knock the Olympics at the moment. Every idiot's out there getting stuck into them. You flick on your television, there'll be some idiot having a go at them right now.
- CABSAV** The decision about what should and shouldn't be put to air is one that will be made by the producer of Four Corners.
- NICHOLAS** Yes, but I'm sure they'll listen to you. 'Firm but fair', I think that's the path to travel here.
- CABSAV** They wouldn't listen to me, no.
- NICHOLAS** Are you serious? The Minister's in the paper telling you what to do with the 7.30 Report. You're trying to get rid of Phillip Adams. You're telling me that the producers of the programs are in charge? I tell you what, the producer of this Four Corners is going to be in deep shit if this is against the national interest and you show it.
- CABSAV** How can the truth be against the national interest?
- NICHOLAS** Oh, come on. Do you think Churchill told Hitler that they'd broken all the German codes? 'Excuse me, Herr Hitler, I'm sorry to bother you while you're invading Poland, but I feel duty bound to tell you, "in the national interest", that we're reading all your signals.' Come on. You know as well as I do, there are some things that are better kept quiet.
- CABSAV** I'm sure that the producer will take those issues into consideration.
- NICHOLAS** Yes, but how will he know what those issues are unless you tell him?
- CABSAV** What I'm indicating to you is that decisions about program content are made at the program level.
- NICHOLAS** You know the ABC chairman is on our board?
- CABSAV** Don't threaten me, Nicholas. I shouldn't even be showing it to you.
He passes a videotape to Nicholas
- NICHOLAS** Do you realise we had Russell Kroger in the very first episode?

CABSAV Michael Kroger.

NICHOLAS That's what you think.
John and Bryan are in a car, on their way to the ABC.

JOHN Well, someone's apparently got some film of us.

BRYAN Where?

JOHN In a motel room.

BRYAN Are you sure it's us?

JOHN Nicholas says it's us.

BRYAN In a motel room?

JOHN Yes, with some other bloke.

BRYAN There are three of us?

JOHN Yes.

BRYAN Are you sure it's us?

JOHN I don't know. I haven't seen it. What Nicholas says is that it's definitely you and me and some bloke in shirt sleeves.

BRYAN Can we stop it from going to air?

JOHN That's why we're going there. That's what we're trying to do here.

BRYAN We were only trying to find a way of paying for the Games.

JOHN That's right. Good boy, Bryan. Just give them your rank and serial number.
Nicholas is sneaking around inside the ABC with the videotape he has received from Cabsav. He walks down a corridor and into an empty office where there is a TV and video set-up. He puts the video in and we see black and white footage of John and Bryan in a motel room, with a man in shirt-sleeves.

JOHN Would it be possible to tax the rich?

MAN What do you mean? Get them to pay tax?

JOHN AND BRYAN Yes.

MAN The rich?

JOHN AND BRYAN Yes.

JOHN Yes. Would it be possible to get some tax revenue from the rich?

MAN In Australia?

JOHN AND BRYAN Yes.

MAN It's never been tried before.

BRYAN Yes, we know that.

JOHN But would it be possible?

MAN Why?

BRYAN Oh, just something we're working on. Research.

JOHN Don't worry about why. The question is, is it possible?

MAN You want to tax the rich?

BRYAN Yes.

JOHN Well, let's say we did.

BRYAN Yes.

MAN But the rich pay tax now.

BRYAN Yes, but they don't pay very much.

JOHN Yes, not a lot.

MAN They pay as much as everyone else.

BRYAN Exactly.

JOHN Is there any way we could perhaps get them to pay more?

Nicholas stops the tape.

NICHOLAS Oh my God!

*He pulls it out from the VCR opens it and tries to pull the tape out of the cassette.
He walks to the water-cooler.*

NICHOLAS (To a beautiful woman in a green shirt) Just getting a glass of water.

He activates the water-cooler and pours water into the tape. He then leaves, turns left and turns right again immediately as he attempts to be unobtrusive in the face of a man coming from the left. He is passed by a woman with files and tapes. She recognises him. He rings a 'Nicholas' bell.

LISA Nicholas. Four Corners footage.

She must be Lisa

NICHOLAS Lisa.

LISA Yes.

NICHOLAS Great. Yes, look, there's something wrong with this tape. It's not very clear.

LISA Let's have a look.

John and Bryan walk into the ABC reception.

JOHN Hi there, we're here to see Mr Bell.

Nicholas and Lisa are in an edit suite. She plays the defaced tape. The picture is ruined and the sound is indecipherable.

LISA I'm sorry about that. I'll give you another copy.

NICHOLAS You've got other copies?

LISA Of course.

NICHOLAS Do you know how many?

LISA There are always lots of copies of everything. I've got another one here I've just got back from legal. It's probably all right.

Nicholas' joy is not unalloyed



NICHOLAS Great, thanks.

LISA No problem.

She pushes 'play' with the new tape, and leaves. Nicholas, alone, watches the tape shot on security cameras in a motel room.

MAN (On tape) The tax system isn't set up to get any tax money from the rich.

BRYAN Yes, but can't that be changed?

MAN Changed on what basis?

BRYAN Well, on the basis of the more money you earn the more tax you pay.

MAN The opposite of the current system?

BRYAN Yes but let's start thinking outside the square here.

JOHN Maybe we should look at this another way altogether. The people who aren't the rich...

MAN Yes, the ordinary people.

JOHN Yes, why do they pay tax?

MAN Someone's got to pay tax. You won't have any roads or hospitals.

BRYAN Yes, hospitals and schools are paid for by tax.

JOHN I appreciate that, Bryan. But why aren't the people... this is my question... why aren't the people who are earning a lot of money making a greater contribution?

As a matter of interest, what's a rich person earning these days?

MAN A year?

JOHN Yes, what are they getting a year?

MAN Oh, say a million a year.

BRYAN Well, why don't they pay tax?

MAN The theory is that rich people's money is better used by them running their business and employing people than it would be by paying tax.

JOHN This is the trickle-up effect?

John and Bryan enter the edit suite while Nicholas is watching the tape.

LISA Just in here.

John and Bryan are concerned as they watch themselves on-screen. (On tape)

BRYAN This would account for full employment.

JOHN So the rest of us have got to pay our tax and their tax?

MAN I'm just telling you the theory.

JOHN (Not on tape. The real one) Yes, I see the problem, Nicholas. Can you stop the videotape?

Nicholas stops the tape and turns to John and Bryan.

NICHOLAS This is dynamite, you know. If they release this we are dead in the water.

BRYAN Where are they going to put it?

NICHOLAS Four Corners.

JOHN Have many copies of that videotape are there?

NICHOLAS I've already tried that, John. They've got hundreds.

BRYAN There's an issue here for the Broadcasting Authority, isn't there?

NICHOLAS No, there isn't. That's you two.

JOHN I think we might be able to appeal to the Broadcasting Authority, yes.

NICHOLAS I don't think so, John. No.

JOHN I think we might be able to. That's an invasion of privacy, Nicholas. We didn't give permission for this to be shot.

NICHOLAS The issue, John, is the public's right to know.

JOHN Bigger the public's right to know, Nicholas. It'll be very dangerous if they stick this out at this stage. I mean, we didn't tell Hitler we'd broken the German code. These people would stick it on the news.

NICHOLAS That's a ridiculous argument, John.

BRYAN Who is the Broadcasting Authority? Do we know anyone there?

JOHN They're just the people who determine what you can and can't broadcast on Australian television.

NICHOLAS Yes. And radio.

JOHN No, they don't do radio, do they?

NICHOLAS Yes, they do. Broadcasting covers television and radio.

JOHN I don't think they determine what you can do in radio.

NICHOLAS Yes they do. They've just had an inquiry into Cash for Comment on 2UE.

JOHN That's right. At which it was determined that they can't control what happens in radio, Nicholas.

BRYAN What are the rules for radio?

JOHN There aren't any rules in radio. Have a look at the inquiry.

BRYAN Well, there's nothing much in what we've just seen.

NICHOLAS Nothing much in it!

BRYAN No. Business confidentiality will cover that.

JOHN I think it will depends on who sees it, Bryan.

NICHOLAS Bryan, I don't think 'business confidentiality' covers attempting to bring about constitutional reform in a motel room, all right? I mean, look at this!

Nicholas turns tape back on.

JOHN Could you increase the rate of taxation at the higher incomes?

MAN We don't know what their real incomes are.

JOHN Why not?

MAN They don't declare their real incomes.

JOHN Couldn't you make them declare their real incomes?

MAN How?

JOHN Well, how do they hide their real incomes at the moment?

MAN They've got companies. The company gets the income and then they generate a whole lot of expenses and the incomes come down.

JOHN Yes, but they're the beneficiary of all the things the expenses are spent on, aren't they?

MAN Yes, of course they are.

BRYAN Well, what sort of thing might they buy?

MAN A plane.

BRYAN A plane?

JOHN A plane? Well, how do they do that?

MAN They've got a large income and they buy a plane with it and they call it a business expense.

BRYAN Why don't they pay tax?

MAN Because they've just bought a plane.

JOHN If they can afford a plane, surely they should be paying tax.

MAN These people can't afford to pay tax.

JOHN AND BRYAN Why not?

MAN What are they going to use for money? They just bought a plane.
Nicholas stops the tape and turns to John and Bryan, who are inconvenienced by these events.

NICHOLAS It's not good

BRYAN Where was the camera?

JOHN Did you see where that videotape was taken from?

BRYAN Yes.

JOHN It was there.
John and Nicholas walking under umbrellas outside the ABC.

NICHOLAS Another thing, John. There was no way you could have got into that rowing venue. How did you do it? Did you sleep there?

JOHN No, I was in Canberra this morning. Ask Gina. I just got back.

NICHOLAS Everyone was issued with brand-new computerised ID tags at 9.30 this morning. The only vehicle that got in there all day was an ambulance. You know the man who's organising the Opening Ceremony?

JOHN Yes.

NICHOLAS He was put in a holding cell for three hours this morning because he couldn't remember his own security number.

JOHN A very sensible precaution, in my view.

NICHOLAS How did you do it?

JOHN Did anyone look in the ambulance? It's obviously going pretty well, security.

Nicholas, Gina, John and Bryan are in a meeting room in the Games office.

BRYAN Anyway, what is the problem here with all this? What can Four Corners say about all this? I mean, they recorded a conversation. It's a free country.

NICHOLAS Bryan. You're working on one of the biggest projects ever mounted in Australia. You're \$180 million over budget and you've been filmed with some stranger in a motel room planning a change to the way the tax system works. Now that is sedition.

GINA Sedition? Sedition isn't a crime any more, is it?

JOHN No.

NICHOLAS Well, it used to be.

GINA Yes. Punishable by transportation Nicholas.

NICHOLAS The fact remains, Gina...

GINA To Australia, Nicholas.

NICHOLAS Yes, but it's outside your area of responsibility. Tax reform's got nothing to do with the Olympics.

JOHN The taxpayers of Australia are going to have to pay for the entire thing.

NICHOLAS Yes, but they don't know that yet. It's going to be impossible to shut this story down if they run with it.

BRYAN I think a lot of people are going to agree with us. Why don't the rich pay any tax?

NICHOLAS That's not the issue, Bryan.

JOHN It will be when this comes out!

GINA What are you suggesting we do about it, Nicholas?

NICHOLAS All right. I've been having some discussions.

GINA What sort of discussions?

NICHOLAS I had to go to Canberra.

GINA What for?

NICHOLAS I've been approached by certain people and asked to think about certain possibilities.

JOHN Could you be a tiny bit less specific, Nicholas?

NICHOLAS I've been headhunted.

GINA Headhunted?

JOHN You have?

BRYAN Who'd headhunt you?

JOHN Who headhunted you?

GINA This is in Canberra?

NICHOLAS Yes. I've been asked to head up a new initiative.

GINA Who asked you?

NICHOLAS A senior minister.

JOHN This is a senior Federal Minister?

NICHOLAS Very senior.

JOHN How senior?

NICHOLAS A very senior Federal Minister. I've been asked to head up a new department.

JOHN What department?

NICHOLAS It doesn't exist yet.

BRYAN I take it you're going to take the job.

NICHOLAS I haven't decided yet.

GINA You haven't decided to do it or your haven't decided not to?

NICHOLAS I haven't decided

GINA Oh, you're obviously going to do it.

NICHOLAS Why?

GINA Well, look at you. You wouldn't be sitting there carrying on like this if you weren't going to do it.

NICHOLAS I think I might, yes.

BRYAN Nicholas, what is it?

NICHOLAS (quietly) If this comes out, I am gone.

JOHN Nicholas, we only tell each other things and we're all here.

NICHOLAS (looks around) Australia is going to become a republic.

JOHN What? No, it's not. Nicholas, let me update you. The Australian referendum on this issue was absolutely thumped.

NICHOLAS That's right. But a huge majority of Australians still want a republic.

JOHN How do you know that?

NICHOLAS Because the polls all indicate that's what the majority wants.

GINA Well, why did they vote against being a republic, then?

NICHOLAS They were asked the wrong question.

JOHN Why were they asked the wrong question?

NICHOLAS Because the Prime Minister set the referendum and he's a monarchist.

BRYAN So, you're saying Australia's going to become a republic?

NICHOLAS Yes.

BRYAN How do you know?

NICHOLAS Because I'm going to run the bloody department, Bryan.

JOHN You are?

NICHOLAS Yes.

JOHN Are you?

NICHOLAS Yes. And I've also been asked to put together a crack team of logistics people.

JOHN This is to bring a republic in?

NICHOLAS Yes.

GINA That is a big job.

JOHN That's a huge job, Nicholas.

BRYAN Good luck.

NICHOLAS Do you understand what I'm saying?

GINA Yes.

JOHN Yes.

BRYAN I don't.

GINA Nicholas has been asked to get together a team of logistics people.

NICHOLAS That's right. Who understand infrastructure.

BRYAN They'd have to know that, yes.

NICHOLAS Can cope with multi-million dollar budgets.

JOHN Of course.

NICHOLAS Can get around huge ideas very quickly.

BRYAN That'd be essential, yes

NICHOLAS And have absolutely no political baggage.

BRYAN That's a big job.

JOHN Huge job.

BRYAN Good luck.

NICHOLAS I said I could find them.

BRYAN Where are you going to find people that can do all that?

NICHOLAS I know three of them already, Bryan.

JOHN You're going to need more than three of them, aren't you, Nicholas?

BRYAN You're going to need quite a few, aren't you?

GINA Yes, look, there are three of us and look at the cock-up we've made of this.

JOHN Why are you telling us all this, as a matter of interest?

NICHOLAS Because if you come and work for me in the department, I think I can get this Four Corners story pulled.

GINA (pauses, thinks, speaks, in that order) How does heading up a department that doesn't exist give you the power to pull stuff off television?

JOHN Very good question. I second that question.

NICHOLAS If you were to work on a genuine research project in the context of constitutional reform in the light of setting up a republic, that's got to be better than some tawdry attempt to rustle

up extra funding for an Olympics mismanaged and botched from the start.

Now, you think about it. That's your future. Anyway, there's the deal. I'll get that story pulled if you come and work for me.

It is much later. John wanders into Gina's office. She acknowledges his arrival.

- GINA** Mmmmm?
- JOHN** This commemorative volume you've got coming out after the Games.
- GINA** Yes?
- JOHN** What's in it?
- GINA** The same stuff that's in the commemorative volume that comes out before the Games, plus some results.
- JOHN** Oh good. It'll go well then. What's on the cover? That'd be a tough one, wouldn't it?
- GINA** Yes, we've got four front covers to go with. We'll decide which one after the Games.
- JOHN** Let me guess... Cathy Freeman winning the 400 metres.
- GINA** One.
- JOHN** The Thorpedo.
- GINA** Two.
- JOHN** Madam Butterfly.
- GINA** You're very good, aren't you?
- JOHN** The fourth one's difficult. The Australian women's hockey team?
- GINA** Or Michael Klim. Or a horse.
- JOHN** Have you made an allowance for a sport no-one's ever heard of? Our first two medals in Atlanta were won by shooters.
- GINA** We'll have a banner at the top for 'Our New Stars'.
- JOHN** (satisfied)'Our New Stars'
- She looks at the television in the corner of her office.*
- GINA** Oh we're on, we're on!
- The trailer for Four Corners is playing.*
- JOHN** Bryan!
- VOICE-OVER** On Four Corners at eight-thirty tonight, 'Is Canberra Burning?'
- JOHN** Bryan!
- Bryan walks into Gina's office.*
- VOICE-OVER** ...How the Federal government buys the silence of people who know...
- BRYAN** What? Are we on now?
- JOHN** Hang on.
- VOICE-OVER** ...how Australia works.

- JOHN** No, I don't think we are.
- GINA** No, it's different story.
- BRYAN** Wow. Hooray!
- JOHN** It's a different story.
- GINA** We're not on.
They look relieved.
- VOICE-OVER** In documents leaked to Four Corners late this afternoon...
- JOHN** Fantastic!
- VOICE-OVER** ...details were revealed that a huge Federal slush fund...
- GINA** What is it? Must be something big.
- JOHN** Slush fund?
- VOICE-OVER** ...is being used to buy the silence of many hundreds of Australians who have worked for Government agencies and major state and business enterprises.
- JOHN** Who are these people?
A talking head appears on the trailer.
- EXPERT** Well, these are people who have been identified as now knowing too much to stay on the outside.
The phone at reception rings.
- JOHN** Can you get that, Tim?
- VOICE-OVER** An estimated \$14 million has been put aside to run what is called...
Another phone rings.
- JOHN** Tim!
- VOICE-OVER** 'The Office for the Introduction of the Republic'.
- JOHN** Oh no!
- GINA** What?
Another phone rings. It is Bryan's. He quickly turns it off. The expert is still on television.
- EXPERT** It doesn't exist. Why would it exist? We've had a resounding 'no' in the republic referendum. We've got a Prime Minister who's so opposed to any form of constitutional change he engineered the referendum question to be one that would ensure a 'no' vote. There is no prospect of a republic at all. And look at this: \$14 million for a department to bring it in.
- JOHN** Oh no. This is what Nicholas... Gee, I hope we're not involved in this. This is exactly what Nicholas has just been proposing.
Gina's phone rings. She picks up and hangs up immediately.
- EXPERT** It's not going to happen.
- REPORTER** We tried to speak today with the man...
Footage of Nicholas appears on screen
- GINA** Oh!

Bryan's phone rings. He switches it off.

JOHN Nicholas is in it.

REPORTER ...behind all this, the shadowy figure of senior Sydney Olympics bureaucrat, Mr Nicholas Bell.

BRYAN Nicholas, you rat. We're in trouble.

JOHN We might be in trouble.

REPORTER But our calls were not returned. Entrusted with the framing of the bogus department, Mr Bell has apparently recruited many people already. The list makes interesting reading. Join us for the full story on Four Corners.

GINA Oh no!

BRYAN Nicholas!

John's phone rings.

JOHN I don't know that we are delighted that we're not on Four Corners, are we? Just excuse me.

He answers the phone.

GINA I can't believe this.

JOHN Hello, Nicholas, Nicholas. Where are you? In the carpark. Why don't you come back up here? Well can't you come up the stairs? You haven't got a key. Yes, I have got a key Nicholas, but I'm not going to come and get you. But on the plus side Nicholas you're not going to have to watch Four Corners tonight. No, it's a different story as it happens. They've found some dirty little weasel, Nicholas, who's pretending to bring in a department to introduce a republic. But, it's actually just a way of paying people for their silence, because they know too much about what's going on. Yes. Just a minute, Nicholas.

(To Gina and Bryan) What's the name of that dirty little skunk who's apparently pretending to run a department to bring in a republic?

GINA AND BRYAN Nicholas Bell!

JOHN Nicholas? It's Nicholas Bell apparently. Yes. No I'm not going to come and get you Nicholas. You have a nice night down there. Try and get some sleep. You'll need to look fairly perky in the morning. You might have to do the odd interview tomorrow. Goodnight Nicholas

BRYAN (Looking through the souvenir program) Gina, did you realise that I'm not in here?

GINA No time to deal with it, Bryan, Look. Program's finishing.

She points to the credits for the Games, which roll to their conclusion.

John makes another call.

JOHN Hello? Yes, head of Games security please. Oh hello there, John Clarke here. Yes, that's right. No, I drove in. In the back of an ambulance. No, no, no. Happy to help. Absolutely delighted. Actually you can probably do us a favour. We're just working here late back at the office. There seems to be rather a shadowy character in our carpark. Yes, I wonder if you'd do that? Thank you very much. Goodnight.