

SERIES ONE

THE GAMES

EPISODE

09

J'ACCUSE

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John finds that when it comes to being interviewed, the thrill is gone.

- CAMERA OPERATOR** John, how are things going in terms of ticket sales? The power in Auckland, the water in Sydney and now the gas in Melbourne.
- JOHN** Righto! Cut! I've just about had it with the press setting the agenda. I said I wouldn't talk about that. You'll have to leave. I've got other fish to fry. Go on. I've got things to do.
- Thursday 10.46 a.m. The office is abuzz with people hard at work. John is walking towards Gina's office. He reads from a newspaper.*
- JOHN** Gina, listen to this: 'The so-called Games of the 27th millionairium are now a staggering \$248,000 a day over budget and we have on our hands a full-scale corporate catastrophe in which the loss of the Titanic could quite happily be written off as office stationery. Once a celebration of youth and now little more than an orgy of waste and incompetence, haemorrhaging money and run by the biggest pack of no-hopers anyone could find anywhere, these Olympics have become an embarrassment to all thinking Australians.'
- GINA** What about the rest of us?
- JOHN** 'There is something rotten in the state of SOCOG' – a Shakespearian reference – 'as one highly placed source inside the organisation has said, if this were a private company there would have been a fire here last Thursday.' What idiot wrote this?
- GINA** Jack Hughes.
- JOHN** Well, look, he hasn't checked any facts. In fact there aren't any facts in here. This is just opinionated drivel.
- GINA** He writes for the most respected newspaper in the country.
- JOHN** We can't have this sort of rubbish being written. This is badly written, completely unresearched rubbish.
- GINA** You don't mind badly written, unresearched rubbish when it's on your side.
- JOHN** I don't have a problem with favourable crap. Favourable crap is an excellent result. It's the best result you can get in Australia, favourable crap.
- GINA** We can't control the press, John.
- JOHN** Well, we're not having the press control us. Who is this genius? I think we might get him in.
- GINA** Bad idea. Bad idea.
- JOHN** We could have him killed.
- GINA** Look, it's a free country. He can write whatever he likes.
- JOHN** I'm not having him write it about us.
- GINA** The Minister called. Are you going to a meeting about drug testing?
- JOHN** Yes, I am. In fact you can wise me up about this. The current drug regimen is still random drug testing, isn't it?
- GINA** Why is the Minister calling a meeting about drug testing?
- JOHN** He's going to make an announcement.
- GINA** What sort of announcement? Is he thinking of replacing the current system?
- JOHN** Yes, perhaps.
- GINA** In what way?

- JOHN** Possibly. Well, you know everybody wants a drug-free Olympics. And as you yourself would be aware – in fact you've told me this yourself – the current system doesn't really work terribly well.
- GINA** The current system isn't perfect but it's the best system we've got.
- JOHN** But it takes ages, it's subject to all sorts of mess ups - there have been all sorts of samples being tampered with - it's invasive. I don't know why that system was adopted in the first place.
- GINA** The Minister agreed to adopt the same system that was used in Atlanta.
- JOHN** Well, he's changed his mind now. He now realises that system is inadequate.
- GINA** Well, at least we know this one works.
- JOHN** Oh, you won't have a problem with the new one. (He hands his newspaper to the receptionist) Scott, would you mind ringing this bloke, Jack Hughes, and asking him if he wouldn't mind coming and seeing me at some point?
- GINA** New one? What new one?
- JOHN** Just excuse me for one moment. (He goes towards Bryan's office. Gina gives up and goes back to her office to get some work done) Bryan! Bryan, why isn't the lacrosse centre finished?
- BRYAN** Lacrosse centre?
- JOHN** Yes, the Olympic lacrosse centre. It's up at Stanmore. I came past it yesterday afternoon. It's supposed to have been finished three weeks ago. There's not even anyone on the site. There's nothing up there. There's certainly no construction.
- BRYAN** What's a lacrosse centre? It's a paddock with a couple of goal posts.
- JOHN** No, no. This is a full complex. Look at the plans. It's got bars, it's got restaurants – I think you can stay there. There's certainly a computer centre. Have a look at the plans.
- BRYAN** Who's building it?
- JOHN** Trusty Constructions, it says on the sign.
- BRYAN** Oh, that's Dermott O'Gorman.
- JOHN** Bryan, I've got to show Juan Antonio a lacrosse centre in about three weeks. We haven't even got one. I think you'd better have a word with brother O'Gorman.
- BRYAN** Well, where is this place?
- JOHN** It's up at Stanmore. It's next to the archery centre. It's called – I can't remember its name but it's next to the archery centre and – I can't think of the archery centre's name either. Hang on a minute. (Walks from Bryan's office towards Gina's) Gina, you know something about archery don't you?
- GINA** A bit.
- JOHN** What's the name of that big archery centre thing?
- GINA** The bullseye?
- JOHN** The bullseye. Thanks very much Gina, for your help in this matter
- John gives up and goes back to Bryan*
- BRYAN** John, I mean, I really... I've got this Senate's Estimates Committee stuff I've got to get together.
- JOHN** Well, look I can't possibly go, Bryan. You'd better go and speak to O'Gorman, I tell you what, if there's a cock-up it'll come out of your budget. (John leaves Bryan's office)
- BRYAN** (Exasperated) Our budget.

Gina walks into John's office to find out more about the new drug test.

- GINA** John, sorry to bother you. What is this new drug test?
- JOHN** What is it? It's a new drug test.
- GINA** How does it work?
- JOHN** You seem very interested.
- GINA** Yes, I am interested. I've spent a lot of time talking to sports organisations. We've just been through all the drug protocols for Sydney.
- JOHN** It's very simple. I did it myself. You put your hand on a plate – a glass plate – the magic machine is underneath the plate and it reads the specific gravity, I think it is, of every substance in your bloodstream.
- GINA** Every chemical of any sort?
- JOHN** Every chemical of any sort that's in your body. It actually prints it all out. You get a print-out.
- GINA** Is it reliable?
- JOHN** It's 100 per cent reliable.
- GINA** A hundred per cent?
- JOHN** Yes, it's totally reliable. That's the great advance. And the plan is to put one of these machines at the entrance to each of the venues. As the athletes go in they get tested and if they're not clean, they're out.
- GINA** Is the Minister going to announce this?
- JOHN** You bet he is. This is the clean Olympics. I mean, this is a fantastic coup. Everybody's tried to do it before. No-one else has even been able to...
- GINA** Shouldn't we think about this before he says anything?
- JOHN** Think about it? There's not a heck of a lot to think about. I mean, the clean Olympics – drug-free Olympics – this is what everybody's always wanted. I reckon it's absolutely fantastic. It is absolutely fantastic. (To receptionist as he's leaving the building) I'll be back in about an hour and a half.

Gina realises something is amiss, picks up her bag and follows John out.

- GINA** (To receptionist) I'll be back in about an hour and a half.
- CAMERA OPERATOR** (To receptionist) I'll be back in about an hour and a half.
- John is waiting for the lift. Gina spots him and decides to take the stairs instead to beat him to the car. The camera operator follows Gina. When John enters the car Gina and crew are already inside.*
- JOHN** Okay, what are you doing here?
- GINA** (Puffing from the dash) I'm going past the Minister's office. I'll drop you off.
- JOHN** Where are you going?
- GINA** Past the Minister's office. I'll drop you off. (To Ian, the driver) Minister's Office thanks Ian.
- Gina is puffing, having just sprinted down the stairs.*
- JOHN** Are you all right?
- GINA** Yes, I'm fine.

Thursday 11.14 a.m. Bryan is at a construction site operated by Dermot O'Gorman.

- BRYAN** John drove past it and reckons it wasn't there.
- DERMOT** Oh well, we are a bit behind schedule.
- BRYAN** My point is, is there going to be a lacrosse centre out there by next week?
- DERMOT** No. Probably not.
- BRYAN** Have you started building it?
- DERMOT** There's a shortage of skilled workers, shortage of skilled labour.
- BRYAN** What are you talking about? There are a million unemployed people out there.
- DERMOT** Bricklayers are skilled labour and we can't get any brickies.
- BRYAN** Look at the construction that's going on around town. How are they doing that? What are they doing, knitting those building? Crocheting them?
- DERMOT** No, no. Look, all I'm trying to indicate to you is there's so much construction going on in Sydney at the moment you can't get bricklayers. Two years ago there were brickies everywhere, but they were getting sixty cents a brick and now they're getting a dollar seventy.
- BRYAN** Why?
- DERMOT** Every developer's got a project on, you know, every hotel's putting on rooms.
- BRYAN** But isn't everyone's cost based on a dollar seventy a brick?
- DERMOT** Yes, and they're all over budget.
- BRYAN** Well, how can they afford it?
- DERMOT** They can't.
- BRYAN** You've got a contract to build a lacrosse centre out there.
- DERMOT** Yes, we can, get the workers.
- BRYAN** Can we get some brickies in from other states?
- DERMOT** Might be able to fly someone in from New Zealand.
- BRYAN** They wouldn't let them in. They'd want to use wide trowels.
- DERMOT** Is your problem the lacrosse centre or the fact that Juan Antonio Samaranch is coming here to see it?
- BRYAN** Both, really.
- DERMOT** Which one's more urgent?
- BRYAN** Well, Juan Antonio is coming out here this century.
- DERMOT** Right. The reason I ask is that my country club is right next door to one of those lacrosse things and I'd be more than happy to show him around.
- BRYAN** It's not going to solve the problem.
- DERMOT** We can't do the work if we haven't got the money.

Gina and John are in the car together and obviously have been for some time.

- GINA** Because you can't just announce that you're introducing some completely new procedure. All the sporting bodies have got to approve it. They've got to see trials. It has got to be in operation in international competition.

JOHN Can't think of a better example of international competition than the Olympic Games

GINA John, for a new drug test to be brought in you have to get agreement from every single sporting body in advance in every competing country.

JOHN That'd take years.

GINA Exactly.

JOHN The clean Olympics. This is what we want. Everybody's wanted to do this but nobody's previously been able to.

Bryan is back at the office, on the phone to Hal Parkinson, an investment funds manager at a major bank.

BRYAN Hello, Hal? I've got a little financial thing I need to talk to you about. Yes, Lacrosse Centre. Okay. Yes. Could I meet you in about ten?

John and Gina are waiting for Nicholas.

GINA It'll keep people away from the games.

JOHN It'll keep drug cheats away from the games and that is a very, very, good thing,

GINA Do you know how many big athletes are going to come if you eliminate drugs?

JOHN I know there'll be a few... Oh, hello Nicholas. I'll see you later, Gina.

NICHOLAS Good morning.

GINA John's asked me to come along because he's not really up to speed with drug protocol.

JOHN That's not quite right.

GINA He feels himself, quite rightly in my view, to be a complete ignoramus on the subject whereas I've spent my life dealing with it.

JOHN Not quite right. I'll see you back at the office, Gina.

GINA Do you know how many athletes are coming to the Games?

NICHOLAS We're thinking about 10,000, aren't we?

JOHN Ten thousand two hundred, or something.

GINA Ten thousand were coming. Less 30 per cent. That's 7000.

JOHN Why less 30 per cent?

GINA Because if you bring in this new test they won't all come.

NICHOLAS Thirty per cent won't come?

GINA At least 30 per cent.

JOHN Of course they'll come. Why wouldn't they come?

GINA Oh, and their sponsors won't come either, because if the athletes aren't here, their sponsors won't be here.

JOHN Sponsors will all come. Everybody's agreed about drugs in sport. Nobody wants it.

NICHOLAS No sponsors?

JOHN If people are going to cheat...

GINA Do you want any records broken?

- JOHN** Are you saying that 30 per cent of athletes are taking drugs?
- GINA** That has been the figure for ages. Did you see the Tour de France? They threw out a couple of entire teams.
- NICHOLAS** (Passing on a message to John) Ring Bryan. Urgent. (To Gina) Thirty per cent?
John walks away to make the call to Bryan on his mobile phone.
- JOHN** Excuse me a minute.
- NICHOLAS** Thirty per cent? Sponsors?
- JOHN** (On mobile phone) Hello. Yes, it's me.
Nicholas and Gina, in the meantime, move into Nicholas's office. Nicholas checks to make sure John is out of earshot.
- NICHOLAS** I think it's going to be very hard to argue against the new testing. It's foolproof.
- GINA** Nothing is foolproof.
- NICHOLAS** Yes, but it's so good. I mean, I saw it with the Minister. You put your hand on it and it reads the chemical composition. It's a brilliant invention.
- GINA** Yes, but the invention is not the issue. The issue is, do we want the world's best athletes coming to Sydney?
- NICHOLAS** Well, let's say we did.
- GINA** All right. In that case the test would have to undergo more trials. It would be a shame if we brought it here and there were some problems with it and the athletes had to pull out. You know, we've got a fair bit riding on this.
- NICHOLAS** All right, I see your point.
- GINA** It would be different if it had been used at the World Cup Athletics meets or the Pan Pacs or something like that.
- NICHOLAS** Yes, we'd have a precedent then, wouldn't we?
- GINA** Exactly. If there was a precedent, we wouldn't have a problem.
- NICHOLAS** All right. I hear what you're saying.
- GINA** Good. I don't think John does.
John walks in at this point.
- NICHOLAS** Oh, I think he does. (To John) You do, don't you?
- JOHN** Pardon?
- GINA** Nicholas doesn't think you hear what I'm saying.
- JOHN** I beg your pardon.
- NICHOLAS** Come on. Let's do it.
- JOHN** I beg your pardon, Gina.
They enter the Minister's office and Nicholas shuts the door behind them.
- NICHOLAS** Good morning.

Thursday, 2.48 p.m. At a café. Bryan is at a table with Hal Parkinson and Shauna McEwan. Shauna is head actuary of a major insurance company.

- BRYAN** Okay, homework for today: how do we get some more money? We need extra money for a Lacrosse Centre. We can't ask the Minister. How would you do it at the bank?
- HAL** Well, how many budgets have you got? How many project budgets have you got?
- BRYAN** About forty.
- HAL** And you've got a Development Budget, a Project Budget, and a Management Budget for each one?
- BRYAN** Yes.
- HAL** So, 120 budgets. How much do you need for this lacrosse thing?
- BRYAN** About half a million.
- HAL** Okay. Well, you add three or four grand onto each project as an over-run and that will give you four hundred grand. Then underpay all your suppliers on all projects by as much as you need to make up the other hundred K.
- BRYAN** Well, hang on a minute, you can't add money onto these budgets. (John walks in at this point and takes a seat) Oh, hi John.
- JOHN** Sorry I'm late.
- HAL** You don't add it all on in the one go. You're only adding little amounts. No-one will even notice.
- JOHN** (To Bryan) This is how you're getting the money?
- BRYAN** Yes.
- HAL** I'm just saying, you go through all your budgets, you add a few cents onto each and every item. It's all electronic. So no-one will even notice.
- SHAUNA** Typical banker.
- HAL** Well, what would you do?
- SHAUNA** Insurance is much more subtle than that.
- BRYAN** What would you do?
- SHAUNA** You'd sell services that you are not going to provide. Are you selling corporate packages?
- BRYAN** Yes.
- SHAUNA** Ticketing packages? Do they get a box up in a stand with drinks and food and so on?
- JOHN** Yes.
- SHAUNA** Make them pay extra for drinks and food. And make them pay extra for a guest.
- JOHN** But it's for guests.
- SHAUNA** You'll make a few bob then.
- BRYAN** What? Charge them for the boxes?
- SHAUNA** Yes.
- BRYAN & JOHN** They've already paid for the boxes.
- SHAUNA** They think they've paid for it.

JOHN What have they done?

SHAUNA They've purchased the right to pay for it. They've prevented anyone else paying for it. We'll stick it on the back of the ticket in a microscopic font. No-one will notice.

HAL You take a little bit from here, a little bit from there. You look after the pennies, the pounds take care of themselves.

SHAUNA No. You need to get money from a service you subsequently aren't going to provide.

BRYAN But why would people want to buy a service that's not going to be provided?

SHAUNA You tell them you are going to provide it.

JOHN But how can you not provide a service that you have undertaken to provide?

SHAUNA You provide part of it. If they want the rest they've got to pay extra.

John looks at Bryan

JOHN It's no wonder they've got more money than we have, is it?

Bryan and Gina are in the car.

BRYAN How did the drug meeting go?

JOHN Oh good, good. (He is looking at a brochure) Is this O'Gorman's country club?

BRYAN Yes.

JOHN I reckon you're going to take Juan Antonio Samaranch up here, perhaps you should do it at night.

BRYAN Why?

JOHN Well it's...

BRYAN Not a world-class facility?

JOHN Have you ever been up there?

BRYAN No.

JOHN There was an earthquake up here in 1973. It did two hundred grand's worth of improvements. (The car hits a very corrugated road without the benefit of shock-absorbers. The rest of the discourse is conducted through chattering teeth and slightly blurred vision) Does he know where the address is that we're going to?

BRYAN Yes.

JOHN Does he?

BRYAN Yes.

JOHN I hope he bloody knows where he's going?

Tuesday 4.26 p.m. Bryan, Nicholas and John are in a meeting.

BRYAN Nicholas... we're going to have to find some money for the Lacrosse Centre.

NICHOLAS The Minister has said this till he's blue in the face. He cannot see why this wasn't completed in accordance with your budgetary estimates.

JOHN Well that's just ridiculous, isn't it?

NICHOLAS Why?

- JOHN** Because it's not very helpful. It doesn't actually answer the question.
- BRYAN** We're sitting right on top of all our budgets and we've got cost over runs coming out of our ears.
- NICHOLAS** Whose fault is that?
- JOHN** We obviously can't complete these buildings if the costs have tripled.
- NICHOLAS** But that's what you're here to do. That's what these estimates are for.
- JOHN** I've got to go and show Juan Antonio Samaranch a Lacrosse Centre.
- NICHOLAS** Well, he'd better see one, hadn't he?
- From this point on, the three men all talk at the same time, loudly and with feeling.*
- BRYAN** We haven't got one.
- NICHOLAS** I understand that. You should have built one.
- JOHN** What am I supposed to tell him? Should I perhaps pop down to the Squash Centre and pretend that it's a Lacrosse Centre? Should I go down there and say to him 'It looks like a Squash Centre. They look like squash players'?
- NICHOLAS** This is happening again, again and again. It happens with sponsorship...
- This goes on for some time. Surprisingly, no conclusion seems to be emerging when John becomes aware that someone is calling him*
- RECEPTIONIST** (From outside the office) John, Jack Hughes. John!
- John leaves Bryan's office to greet Jack Hughes.*
- JOHN** Excuse me a moment. (To Jack) Hello.
- JACK** Jack Hughes.
- JOHN** John Clarke.
- JACK** Respected journalist.
- JOHN** Yes, so I've heard. Come down into my office. Thank you very much for coming.
- Meantime, in Bryan's office, Bryan and Nicholas are still slugging it out.*
- BRYAN** Five dollars ninety. Don't bloody get aggressive with me. Don't get aggressive with me. (Nicholas is hurling bits of paper at Bryan)
- John's office is an oasis of calm by comparison. He addresses Jack)*
- JOHN** You see, if you're opposed to the Olympics we do have a fundamental problem, don't we?
- JACK** I'm not opposed to the Olympics, John.
- JOHN** Yes, you are. You put shit on the Olympics. That's what you do. I've read your stuff. I've been back through your stuff for the last six months and it seems to me that's pretty much what you do, Jack. You haven't got a decent thing to say about them.
- JACK** I'm not even talking about the Olympics. I'm talking about all the money that's being spent on them.
- JOHN** Well, we're not going to be able to put the Games on, are we, if we're not prepared to spend the money that's required to get them to the start line.
- JACK** Let's not have them then.
- JOHN** Well, if your position is that we shouldn't have them, I want to know why you're called the 'Official Olympics Correspondent'.

- JACK** Don't try and paint me as anti the Olympics, John. I'm not anti the Olympics.
- JOHN** Yes, well, you're not lobbying for them very successfully at the moment, are you?
- JACK** I'm not saying anything about the fixture itself. I've got no problem with the games. I mean, look at it, John. It's supposed to have a tradition of amateurism, right? Fair play, decency. I mean this whole original event could have been held in a bloody local park for about eight dollars fifty. But what I'm talking about, John, is this great consumerfest, all set up by international business for international television, all paid for by the Australian taxpayer.
- JOHN** Sure. Look, if that is your position, I suggest you make out a cogent argument in accordance with that position and you take it to the IOC. You see, you're just baying at the moon in the newspaper. Go and see the Minister. You're not being very helpful as far as I'm concerned. We here are just trying to do our job.
- JACK** I'm just trying to do my job too, John. I'm getting paid to write stuff for the paper.
- JOHN** What you're writing in the newspaper, frankly, is a lot of rhetorical crap. I reckon you don't even want answers to half of these questions.
- JACK** I've obviously got you worried, John.
- JOHN** If you've got real questions I'm confident there'll be real answers.
- JACK** I've got real questions.
- JOHN** Let's look at the real questions. What are they?
- JACK** They'll be in Saturday's paper.
- JOHN** Look, Jack, if you want to drop a fact into one of your scintillating articles at any point, you know where we are. Give us a whistle.
- Jack pulls out a sheaf of paper and whistles. John accepts the challenge.*
- JOHN** Oh yes. What's this? This is what you're writing for Saturday, is it?
- JACK** No, that's for next week.
- JOHN** I see. Where did you get these figures?
- JACK** I did a budget.
- JOHN** We've got a budget. We sent out a budget, Jack.
- JACK** Yes, I just couldn't find anything in your cost estimates that cover these expenses here. (Points to an item on the paper)
- JOHN** Which expenses?
- JACK** We're paying for all these officials to come out.
- JOHN** Well, as the host nation – a technical term – we are required to pay for the athletes and officials to come out here. That's the deal, Jack, and it is all in here. If you go through here you'll find that - (he finds it) – there you go – under Travel.
- JACK** Have you costed all that out?
- JOHN** Yes. That's all been costed out. That'll all be in there.
- JACK** It's going to cost ten times that much.
- JOHN** Why?
- JACK** Do you know how many officials are coming out here, John?

- JOHN** Well, yes, we do. There's an official accreditation process.
- JACK** And how many accredited officials do you think are coming out from Mulravia?
- JOHN** From Mulravia? I don't have that information readily to hand but I can check that out.
- JACK** I can tell you. There are 24 officials coming out from Mulravia.
- JOHN** Well, I would have to check that out.
- JACK** You can check it until your arse falls off. I'm telling you that's what's happening.
- JOHN** Well you can tell me that till your dick catches fire. I'm still going to have to go check it out.
- JACK** Okay, John. Okay. Do you know how many athletes are coming out from Mulravia?
- JOHN** I don't know how many athletes are coming out from Mulravia, Jack, but I don't have to know that, do I, because I've got you here.
- JACK** Two.
- JOHN** Two.
- JACK** Two.
- JOHN** As many as that?
- JACK** Yes, 24 officials and two athletes. That's twelve officials for every athlete or, if you cut it up the other way, that's 8.33 per cent of each athlete per official.
- JOHN** Yes, yes, Jack, I spent most of the morning in a meeting with the Minister on the question of the official accreditation of these people. If you had your ear to the ground you would know that and you would also recognise that the Minister might not think it very helpful for you to run that story until he's gone right through and rewritten all the accreditation procedures, which he is doing. But you're not going to hold off on that story are you, Jack, because you are a Walkley award-winning journalist.
- JACK** Three times, John.
- JOHN** Three times, yes.
- JACK** Well don't worry about it John, because that won't be in Saturday's paper.
- JOHN** Oh, good. Well, you've got some sensitivity.
- JACK** No, that's in Monday's. Cheers! (He leaves)
- JOHN** Jesus Christ!
- Thursday, 6:05 p.m. Gerry Connolly is walking into the office and encounters the camera crew.*
- GERRY** (To camera) Oh, for archival purposes only I presume (To receptionist)
- RECEPTIONIST** Good day, Mr Connolly, John's expecting you. Just come this way. (Leads Gerry to John's office)
John, John, Gerry Connolly's here.
- John is mid-swing with a golf club.*
- JOHN** I beg your pardon?
- RECEPTIONIST** Gerry Connolly.
- JOHN** Gerry! How are you?
- GERRY** You rang?
- JOHN** I did. Thank you very much for coming.

- GERRY** Not at all.
- JOHN** Can we put you in my seat perhaps, round the other side there?
- GERRY** Sure.
- JOHN** Are you happy with all this?
- GERRY** Yes. Jack Hughes...
- JOHN** Oh you got the fax?
- GERRY** Yeah. Who's this other bloke?
- JOHN** Juan Antonio Samaranch.
- GERRY** Juan Antonio Samaranch.
- JOHN** Samaranch, Juan Antonio Samaranch. It's a Spanish name. Okay? I've got that phone jacked up so you've just got to push 'redial' and you'll go straight through. You don't pick the receiver up and he'll just come straight through to you. Do you want a drink of water or something?
- GERRY** No.
- JOHN** Do you mind if I stay?
- GERRY** No. Please do. (Presses a button on the phone) Press that, and (the phone dials and is answered)...
- JACK** Hello. Jack Hughes. Hello?
- Gerry becomes Bob Hawke*
- GERRY** Jack, it's Bob Hawke, mate.
- JACK** Who?
- GERRY** Hawkie. Hazel's ex. Are you alone?
- JACK** Yes. Just hang on. I'll shut the door.
- GERRY** (To John) He's just shutting the door. (Practising) Juan Antonio Samaranch.
- JACK** Hello?
- GERRY** Correct me if I'm wrong, Jack, but you're the scribbler who's been getting into this over-budgeting crap in terms of your Olympics. (Pretending to be talking to someone else) Giddy mate. How are you? (Back to Jack) Hang on, Jack, I'm in the friggin' hotel foyer, mate, every bastard wants a root to leg in these places. (Pretending to be talking to someone else) Eh? here you go, mate. (Pretending to be autographing something for a well-wisher) Whack it on the photocopier. What's that? Not bad for an old war horse. (Back to Jack) You still there, Jack?
- JACK** Yes, I'm here, Bob.
- GERRY** Mate, let me get to the point. I've been reading your blurbs, your articles and all your in-depth shit and that, and clearly mate, you are the only bloke who knows what's going on. These games are a total unmitigated, bloody disgrace. Some of the plodders we've got running things at the moment couldn't organise a piss-up in a brewery.
- JACK** Absolute pack of no bloody hoppers, Bob.
- GERRY** Well, you're onto it mate. I've been reading your stuff and you know the place is leaking idiots at the moment and it is just not going to bloody well happen.
- JACK** National embarrassment.

- GERRY** Well, this is what I'm indicating to you, son. Now, what I'm going to do is this. We can't be overheard, can we?
- JACK** No, I'm here on my own.
- GERRY** It's all hunky dory? Good. Look, Juan Antonio Samaranch has realised he's in shitter's ditch, mate, and he has pleaded with me to go in there and take over. Small team, Jack. Clear out all your galahs and, you know, get the house in order and then simply get the show on the road and get things going.
- JACK** Really?
- GERRY** Absolutely. Jack, mate. Reason for the call. I'm going to need someone to handle all the media on all this, son, and you're the only bloke who reads all this so let me just say this; there's a shortlist, there's one name on that shortlist and your name is on the shortlist. Are you with me?
- JACK** Shit. Yes. Really?
- GERRY** Okay, look Jack, I've got to skedaddle but I'll call you tomorrow night. I've got Juan Antonio Samaranch all day tomorrow so but, Jack Jack, don't indicate to a single living soul what I've just indicated to you until you and I get in there together.
- JACK** Okay.
- GERRY** Okay. Friday it'll be, but I'll call you back, Jack, and keep up the good work. Keep writing your stuff. It's shit hot.
- JACK** Thanks, Bob. Cheers. Bye-bye.
- GERRY** Okay, toodle-oo.
Gerry smiles and becomes Gerry again
- JOHN** (Shaking Gerry's hand) You've made an old man very happy.
- GERRY** Do you think he bought it?
- JOHN** No question. I'll get you a drink tomorrow night.
- GERRY** Please.
- JOHN** Well done.
Friday 6.28 p.m. Gerry and John are in a pub. Gerry has become Paul Keating and is in the middle of telling John a story.
- GERRY** Get onto this. Get onto this. He was being recalcitrant and I said to him 'Just sit there and cop it. I'm going to do you and do you slowly' because he's up there raving and ranting – the little grub – and I said, so I said, 'Just resign Bob. Just resign.'
- Bryan and Gina come up to the table.*
- JOHN** Yes. Oh hello. Good evening and welcome.
- GINA** Hi, Gerry.
- JOHN** You're familiar with most of Australia's post-war governments, aren't you?
- GINA** Certainly.
- JOHN** We're just having... What are we celebrating?
- BARMAN** You wanted to see the news, didn't you?
- JOHN** Oh, the news, thank you, yes. You'll have some champagne, won't you?

JOHN Gerry and I have got a runner in this event.

NEWSREADER And in news just to hand, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke has issued proceedings against the country's most respected newspaper over a story by feature writer Jack Hughes claiming the current Sydney Olympics administration was going to be removed on Friday and replaced by a management team headed by the long-serving former leader. Mr Hawke told the Press Club at lunchtime today he was confident of victory and had always wanted a large pastoral holding and an ocean-going craft of some type.

BRYAN What's this about?

JOHN Isn't that interesting?

GINA What have you two been doing?

JOHN Nothing

GERRY No. Nothing.

JOHN (Raising his glass in a toast) Here's to Australian journalism.

BRYAN Australian journalism.

JOHN Yes.

GERRY Yes

GINA Yes