

Act 2, Sc21

Approaches the window
And then
HANNAY. Well – ladies and gentlemen I must apologise for my...hesitation in addressing you but to tell you the simple truth, I'd entirely failed, while listening to the chairman's flattering description just now, to realise he was talking...about me.

(canned laughter)

Thank you. Thank you very much. Anyway when I...er...journeyed up to Scotland a few – days ago, travelling on the Highland Express over that magnificent structure the Forth Bridge –

(Reveals his handcuff. Hastily hides it.)

– I'd no idea that in a few days I should be addressing an important political meeting. But may I say from the bottom of my heart and the utmost sincerity how delighted and relieved I am to find myself in your presence at this moment.

and what have you. Well not that recently. **Recently**, the last few days –

(PAMELA re-appears. Whispers furiously to MESSRS D & MCQ. They leave the stage together. HANNAY carries on. He's rather getting into it.)

– well the last day really, everything's gone a bit hay-wire frankly. Wouldn't say it's been easy. Pretty damned difficult actually. But the odd thing is – the odd thing is – you carry on! And it's pretty bracing when you do. Pulls a chap out of himself if you know what I mean. There he is. No idea what's happening. Who to trust. Where to turn. Whether it'll be worth it at the end of it all. But something – I don't know – stirs the old bones!

(He grips the lectern.)

Gets the old ticker pumping again! And there's no time to think. And your mind's singing. And your heart's racing. And you're meeting people. Real people! Doing the best they can! Yes! Doing the best they can in all the terrible situations the world throws at them! Suffering things *no man or woman ought to suffer!* And yet they carry on! They don't give up! They damn well keep going! And I'll tell you what else they do. They do the best they can for *other* people too! Whatever problems they've got, they damn well look after each other! Is that such an –

(He remembers the professor's words.)

– 'outmoded sentimental notion'? Is it!? Well is it? So look here –

