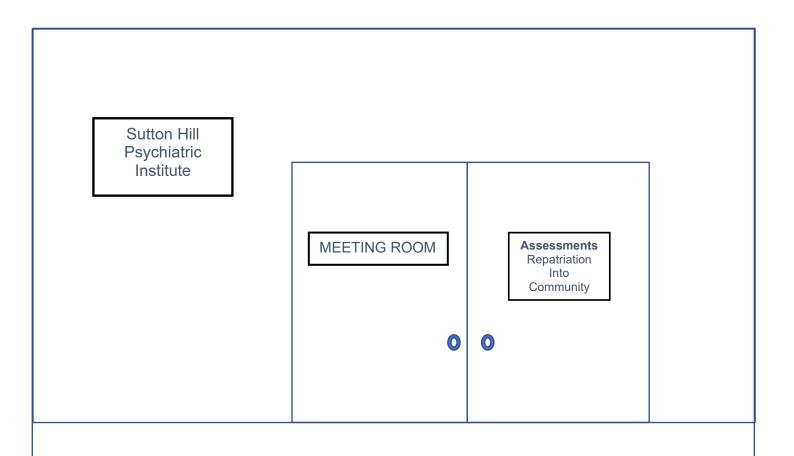
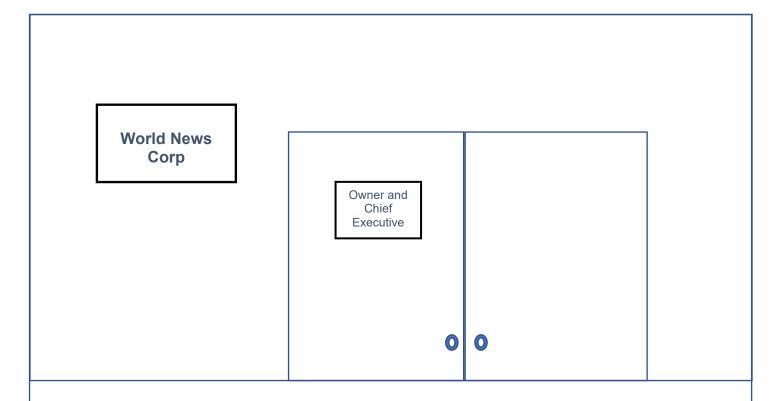
March / April 2020 A bit different....



- 'Ahh, good morning Derek. Please, come in'
- 'Haahnoh nnn a rebkaagb ebeooin sen ssogn'
- 'You are here today because your wife, as she puts it, has had enough'
- 'Thgegk fboeibd gsj wheui jeueie ern ude yydeahk?'
- 'She says she is sick of it and you need a change of career, a change of life or a change of wife'
- 'Hytehke hbreve heio suefalk weundo wid'
- 'I believe you are at the pinnacle of your profession and last year not only did you get a substantial pay increase, but also a large bonus and presented with an 'Outstanding' Award at the company Annual Dinner'
- 'Eyevb wiuuevblk wekeog ern eued abie atekegha'
- 'As I can't work out what you are saying, could I ask you to read this from one of your own Teaching Manuals please'
- 'Thj dsheo hekleuei shi Peheek Teufio shin gdepe Lheoenddo hnik ndjheirt uejekrr'
- 'Ok, if I could just read what you have just read....... The train waiting at Platform Three leaves for London in fifteen minutes'
- 'Syeej wueuebh! Syeej wueuebh!'
- 'Just a little longer.....'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from our Middle East informant'

'Good morning President Assad, is Your Excellency well?'

'I am, thank you. Tell me the latest figures for Corvid'

'We have tested forty-three thousand and twenty-seven people, of which three thousand four hundred tested positive and nine thousand four hundred and seventeen died'

'And the breakdown of the dead?'

'One thousand people over seventy with other health problems. Seven hundred people over sixty with other health problems and a hundred and fifty-three from varying age groups. The other seven thousand five hundred and sixty four were from Opposition Parties....'

'And I take it we are still dropping the infected dead bodies over Idlib..?'

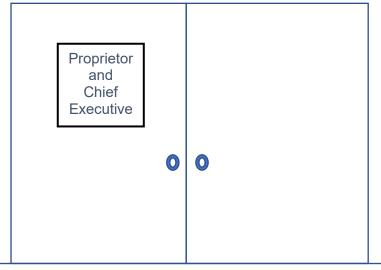
'Yes, Excellency. And the not infected, not dead.'

'Well done '

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....Pen and I have known Bashar for quite a while. Visited us at our place in Knightsbridge. Nice, gentle fellow.....speaks wonderful English.....'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....Theresa May offers to Head Government and country with safe and secure Leadership...?'



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'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'
'Morning Chief. There's a really good one today.....'
'Good morning Senator Biden'
'Who's that calling?'
'I'm a Special Agent assigned to President Trumps personal team. The President is
aware that it is your birthday today and, in these difficult times, he would like you to
have a surprise birthday present'
'That's incredibly kind'
'The President has many good qualities sir. Anyhow we will come to your house in an
hour and take you somewhere nice that you will enjoy. You will be blindfolded once you
are in the car '
'Is it much farther?
'Just pulling in now sir'
'It sounds very busy. What's that smell?'
'It's a wonderful smell sir. Breathe it in deeply.....deeper.....isn't that great? You can
take your blindfold off now sir'
'It's a bit bright..... Why are you wearing a mask? Isn't this a hospital Ward?...... Are
all these people on ventilators?...... Is this full of Corvid?......Are they dying...?'
'Excuse me sir, my phone......it's the President for you sir'
'Hello?'
'Surprise......'
'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'
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'Well....I'm not sure. Donald had me and Penelope down to Mar a Lago a couple of

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....Government cutting nurses to save lives...?'

years ago. Wonderful Golf Course....'

Proprietor and Chief Executive

'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from the Daily Briefing rehearsal.....'

'And the Secretary of State for Health, Nick Handcock...'

'Pardon? What did you say?'

'And the Secretary of State for Health, Nick Handcock...'

'You are saying Handcock. My name is Hancock. Are you trying to be funny?'

'No, Secretary of State, I think you misheard me'

'Say it again'

'And the Secretary of State for Health, Nick Handcock...'

'See, there! You said Handcock'

'I didn't Secretary of State, I really didn't'

'Say it once more'

'And the Secretary of State for Health, Nick Handcock...'

'You did, you did, you bloody well did'

'Secretary of State, no one in the room heard anything different from usual. May I suggest you are tired. Let's face it you have the fate of the Nation on your shoulders and you must be exhausted. Why don't you go to your quarters and get a couple of hours sleep....?'

'I think you're right. It truly is a burden; and it is important that I am fresh for the Briefing. Thank you team, I do appreciate your help, see you later'

......

'Well that was funny guys.....'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure. What if he gets arsey and starts meddling in Private Health Care......I've got shares......'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err...high winds could bring Chinese bats to UK?' 'That would be better....'

> Proprietor and Chief Executive

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'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from a Briefing that didn't go out...'

'Right, that is the end of the briefing. To sum up......We don't know how long the lockdown will last. We may be getting nearer to the top of the curve. We are now counting all deaths. We can't tell you the strategy for loosening the lockdown yet. PPE should be in all hospitals quite soon. Boris is doing nicely. Now, questions....?'

The Times...... How long will the lockdown last?

The Guardian.....When could we get nearer the top of the curve?

Sky TV......When will you start counting all deaths?

BBC...... What is the strategy for loosening the lockdown?

Daily Mirror......When will PPE be in the hospitals?

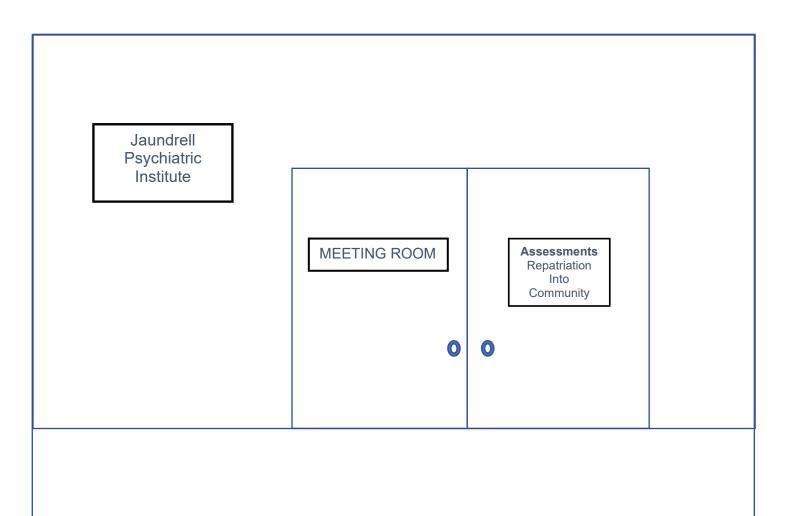
ITV......How is Boris doing?

The Sun.....Yes, could Jenny Harries give us her statistics?

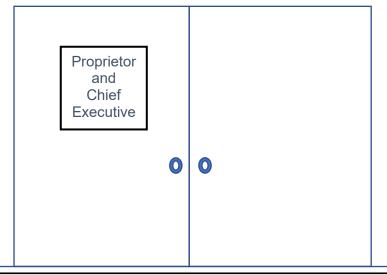
'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....I think it may tweak too many noses......'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....Assange marries transvestite in jail....?'



'Good morning Mr...'
'Please, call me Chris'
'Chris lets...'
'Give me a hug'
'I don't think so'
'Oh, go on'
'No'
'Go on, no one will see us. A nice big hug'
'Mr Whitty, if you insist on this...'
'Oh go on...'
'Just a little longer......'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from one of our sources...'

'Good morning. We are here because we are the elite teams from different parts of the Government and the NHS. Today we are going to forge a new and exciting era for cross cooperation between policies and disciplines. Opening new pathways for seamless collaboration, increased speed of communication, cutting edge innovation and....'
'Excuse me'

'Yes?'

'Why are you talking? Why do you think you are Chairing this...?'

'Well I thought as the most important Whitehall Department we would automatically lead...'

'Well you thought wrong. We are the premier team in the NHS, and we should lead'

'Excuse me both of you, this is nonsense, squabbling like children for goodness sake. The Secretary of State for Health no less sent us and so it is obvious we should lead.....'

'You're all talking rubbish, but may I offer a solution....?

'We're not talking rubbish, but do go on'

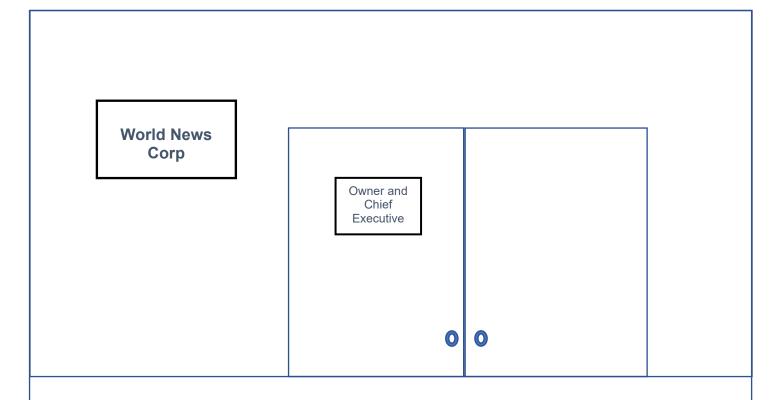
'I suggest we go back to our Departments, set up Oversight Committees, that create working groups, that will look at this problem and report back. Then, I suggest an Overall Oversight Committee to collate the information, take out the best, then send it back to the Oversight Committees for their agreement in principle. Once agreed, we can have an Agreement in Principle Committee to oversee the Agreements in Principle that have been suggested. Any problems are batted around until everyone is happy.......'

'At last, some common sense. Time Frame?'

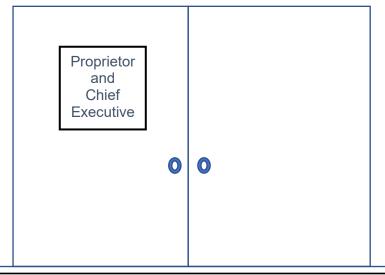
'This needs to be done quite quickly so shall we say.....six,...... no...... nine months?' 'Ideal. Chocolate Hob Nobs anyone...?'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure......Andrew, a Consultant friend, is on one of those Committees.....' 'Shall I find something else Chief? Err.. Assad coming to England for operation on NHS?'



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'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'
'Morning Chief. There's a weird one today from a parabolic mic......'
'It will be ok, trust me'
'I'm not sure'
'It will be fine, you'll enjoy it'
'Well.... I've been caressed before, if you know what I mean, but I've never....you know...'
'I'll be gentle, you know I will'
'We haven't known each other very long'
'Long enough'
'Pardon?'
'I was going to say 'long enough for me to know how lovely and desirable you are'
'That's nice. Thank you.......Have you done this before?'
'No. I've been waiting, looking, and then you come along and it seems right. A natural fit'
'It seems right to me as well. And you will be gentle?'
'Of course,'
'And you will be careful?'
'I'll be very careful'
'Will you think any less of me after?'
'Of course not, we fit perfectly together'
'Ok, but be gentle......that's nice......gosh that's a long way.....it's almost as though you
are inside me.....it's a bit late now but I forgot to ask your name...?'
'It's Covid......'
'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'
'Well....I'm not sure.....I don't get it? Is she too young....?'
'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....MPs first in line for life saving vaccines....?'
'That would be better...'
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'Morning Editor, what have we got?'

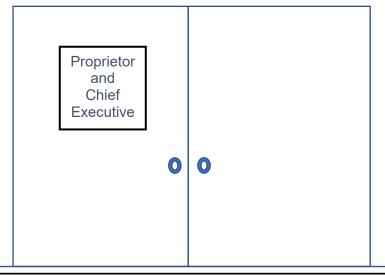
'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from the phone scan...'

'Hello...? Morning Andrew, how's it going?.......Good, a rest will do us good......me? I've got a bit of a routine. Go fishing in the river at the end of the garden, next door come round for lunch or we go there.....a read and a snooze in the afternoon, maybe a bit of rumpy pumpy if Geraldine isn't too tired.....play Bridge in the evening with the Walcott's down the road most evenings and this weekend off to the estate of the Wolking-Hamley family for a get together with other friends......furlough?.....Not sure I've heard that?.....really two and a half grand a week for being out of work?.....a month?really?....one sec Andrew.....Geraldine.....Geraldine, how much is our monthly wine Standing Order?....thanks......no Andrew, wouldn't even cover the wine......no, I don't take calls on the office phone or answer letters.....it just says 'due to the extra workload of these difficult times, please leave a message and we hope to be back within two or three weeks'....no, the answer phone is full so they can't leave a message.....no, money shouldn't be a problem. My Non Exec Directorships are guaranteed so that's a hundred grand a year each from the Banks, fifty from that Compare company, two fifty from the Russian Mineral company that I deputy Chair, and then there's our normal salary ofwhat is it?.....oh yes eighty grand and, have a you heard, a little bird tells me we can still put in the usual expenses as long as they are for 'food banks' etc, whatever they are.....and of course I'm renting out the London apartment for five grand a month to that Attaché from the Iranian Embassy who is stuck in London, or at least that's what he is telling his wife...oh, Andrew got to go, it would appear Geraldine is not too tired.....so, chin up and remember what we said when we met on our first day at our new job...... to serve our country is an aspiration, to be an MP, an honour,....keep well old chap....'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....you know the problems we had with the last phone scanning....'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....is Nigel Farage a transvestite...?'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from one of our sources......'

'Ah good morning. You are the Sales Director for Global Imports?' 'Yes'

'Good. I am Charles Henry, Director of NHS Procurement and my team, Clarissa, Toby and Hugo. We are here for the meeting to sort out our allocation of the PPE equipment that you have managed to acquire'

'That was yesterday'

'Really? Hugo, you said today'

'Sorry sir'

'Ah well, these things happen. Do you have anything else we can buy to help us in our tireless, unremitting, relentless battle against this deadly virus that is ravaging us?' 'Mmm......as it happens, I do. See these things that look like marbles.....well they're not. They mimic cells and Covid goes in them and when it does, it can't get out. It's amazing' 'But they're glass, how would you swallow them?'

'You don't, that's the best bit. You just leave them nearby and Covid is attracted to them rather than a human as its easier. Just arrived from a Swiss Pharmaceutical Group. Put them in your pocket when you are out, by your bed at night, in Hospitals, Care Homes, everywhere. They're amazing but....they're not for sale. BUPA have bought them at a pound each'

'To hell with BUPA. We'll give you two pounds! How many have you got?'

'We've got twenty boxes of five thousand that's......a million at two pounds each'

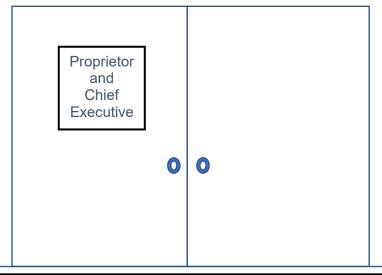
'We'll have them. I have a cheque book with me, and you send them to this address. Bravo Anything else up your sleeve while we're here?'

'I really shouldn't be telling you this but, just in from a secret laboratory, these beans........'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....I have err, you know, shares in'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....high winds may blow in bats from China...?'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a really good one today from the Health Department....'

'Perhaps you could try it out now?'

'Pardon? What have I told you?'

'Sorry. Perhaps you could try it out now..... Secretary of State for Health and Social Care' That's better. I am the Secretary of State you know. Right, well in today's News Briefing which I, I....will be leading, I have decided to be more pally with them......

'My people. I stand before you not as The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care as I am aware that most of you don't understand that, it's a bit beyond you. No, today I stand before you as your friend. Obviously not one you would socialise with, speak to or touch, but perhaps the kind of friend that you would ring when lonely and in need of relief....'

'Secre.....'

'Shut up!

The kind of friend that can make you stand up and take notice. The kind of friend that understands your needs, takes you to a better place, where you can lie back, relax, and then at the end of the call, through sheer emotion, reach for the Kleenex....'

'Secreta...'

'Quiet!'

'That, my people, my subjects, is what I can do for you. After you have listened to me, I am sure you will be limp with relief......'

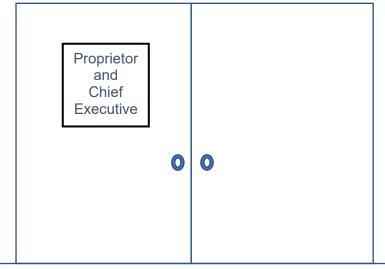
'Secre....'

'Enough!'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story. You couldn't make it up...'

'Well....I'm not sure. We still have the problem of the advertising spend...'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....Corbyn thinking of moving to Bolivia?'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from the Conservative Headquarters in London......'

'Well ladies and gentlemen, I think, after our assessment today, that we should raise a glass of our best champagne and rejoice....So, if you would stand......to our saviourCovid 19' 'Covid 19....Covid 19....Covid 19....Covid 19.......'

'Before Covid arrived we had rising levels of poverty, debt, crime, child abuse, domestic abuse, bankruptcies..... Our police were run down, undermanned, inefficient and unresponsive. The NHS was the same. The tax system antiquated. Too many quangos. Councils pretty poor. Too many old people having pensions. And a possible Brexit calamity waiting round the corner....'

'Don't forget Harry and Meghan'

'And who, at the next General Election would have been blamed?' 'Us'

'Exactly. And now who is going to be blamed?'

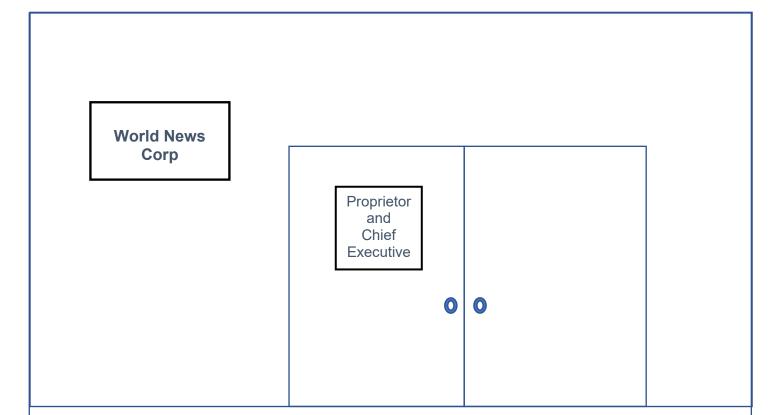
'Covid 19'

'Indeed. And if anyone uses Covid against us, we will just drag up the 'valiant nurses dying for you....', 'PM nearly died fighting for our country' etc etc and that will shut them up. Although another Minister, who perhaps actually succumbs, would clinch it. Williamson would be good, he won't be missed, but Hancock would be better. No Enquiry will work without Hancock and so he can take the blame for anything that went wrong. Not that anything did......Anyhow, it now looks like we've more than likely got three Terms of office, no problem. So, raise your glasses once more....to Covid 19....our invisible Labour destroyer......'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....if they're right.....twelve years......?'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....Michael Gove was used as model for Chucky...?' 'That would be better...'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from the secret Me Too Headquarters hidden high on a mountain in Switzerland.......'

'Beryl, what have you done?'

'Sorry Melanie, I thought it was fine. We did extensive tests on the girls' and nobody died here'

'But you knew the remit; a virus that would only kill men. Targeting those that smoked, drank, slept around, played rugby or football, never cleaned the house or done the shopping, abused the kids, had a mullet, hit the wife and......what was the other Barbara...?'

'Played drums...'

'Exactly. Come on Beryl, how was that difficult? I understand we had to try it out somewhere, and China was the obvious place, but the plan was that we would monitor it and subdue it if it didn't work properly. Now look what's happening.....'

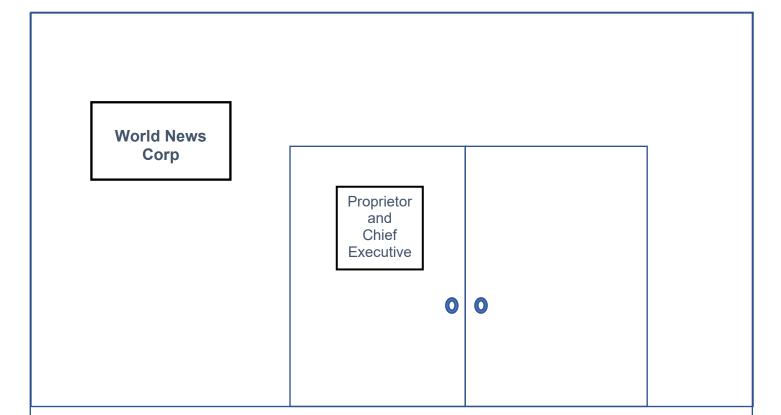
'Sorry Melanie'

'And now my husband's got it and he's never been near a set of drums....'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....Penelope's a woman and, you know......

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....foxes in London dragging off weak old people...?'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. A good one today from the 'Whitehall Message and Dissemination Office"

'Good morning team, I am sorry to have to get you here fifteen minutes early, but I am sure you understand this is a critical situation.'

'Still not working sir?'

'Afraid not. The great British unwashed are not exactly buying our story, so we need to be better. That being the case let me introduce The Great Orgasmo. Peter is one of the world's greatest sleight of hand and misdirection experts and he is going to give us some tips. Peter, over to you.....'

Good morning. I think the main thing to understand is that most people are quite susceptible. They see and believe everything they hear. They are non-critical, non-judgemental and just want an easy life. That makes my job, my act, very easy. Let me demonstrate by showing you a very simple card trick, one that's quite obvious........... Ok, who saw the move? Anyone? Anyone at all? Oh..... Ok, let me do it again very, very slowly......... Did you see it that time? Anyone? No one? Really.........? Anyhow, what you must do is suggest one thing whilst doing another. Sorry, you have a question?' 'But they can't see our hands...?'

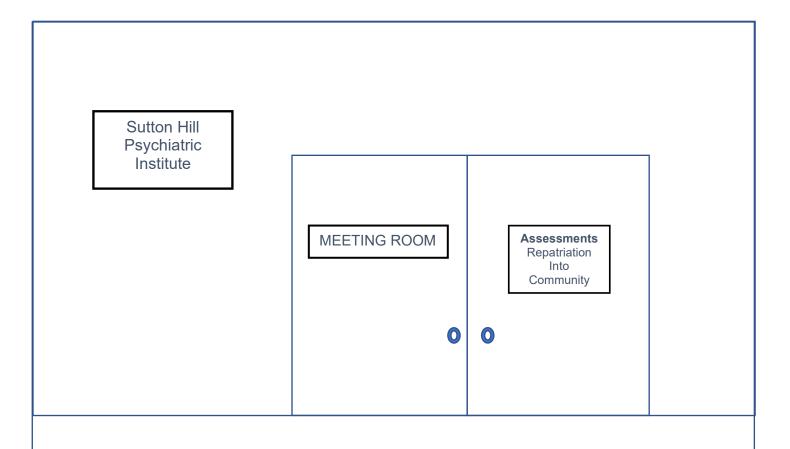
'I tell you what, why don't you tell me the problem and let's see if we can sort it out' 'Well Peter, in the crisis we find ourselves, we seem to be struggling to show our politicians in a particular way. As leaders; intelligent, inspirational, vital, dynamic and the answer to the virus that holds us in its grasp'.

'I'm sorry. I'm one of the best at sleight of hand and misdirection, but I can't do miracles'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.... That department is spending rather a lot on advertising with us at the moment....'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err.....could stroking your cat kill you?'



Good morning Nichola, please come in'

'You've got a funny accent, where are you from?'

'England',

'Well perhaps you could talk slowly'

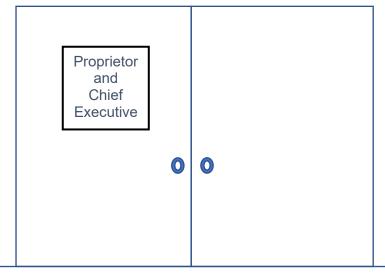
'You have been asked to pop in due to your reasons for getting Scotland ready for a possible exit from 'lockdown''

'They are perfectly valid reasons, not taken lightly, following scientific advice, computer modelling, sociological studies and exhaustive debate' 'So, what did those studies tell you that led you to decide that the Scots

could start socially mixing soon, whereas the rest of the UK wont?' 'Well, the studies were emphatic. The English are essentially beer swilling morons who, let loose, would drink, rampage, puke, fornicate and spread everything everywhere. Whereas the Scots are a gentle, intelligent, caring, considerate and teetotal race whose only thought is the welfare of

others.....'

'Just a little longer.....'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from our mole in Number ten...listen'

'Morning Dom, how are you doing? I'm struggling with this Skype thingy'

'I'm fine. Gets me away from the Press'

'Anyhow Dom I have decided I am well enough now to get back to the helm, lead from the front, fight them on the beaches, lead the rallying cry, let slip the dogs of war' Sigh.....'I don't think so'

'Why? I'm much better now, all the symptoms have gone, the test was good'

'I don't care if you haven't even got a pimple on your arse, you're not going in front of the cameras'

'But why Dom, my country needs me'

Sigh.....'Look, it's a cock up. We were going to do this, then we changed to that, we promised this and didn't deliver, we promised that and didn't deliver and so we now have to do what's right'

'What's that Dom'

'Keep letting Hancock take the briefings. He honestly thinks that people believe his crap so let him get on with it and take the flak. I have also arranged a make-up artist to come over and give you dark eyes and hollow cheeks. The 'I'm still poorly' look. We'll drag you out when the worst is over, and you can take the all the credit'

'You're very clever Dom'

'I know'

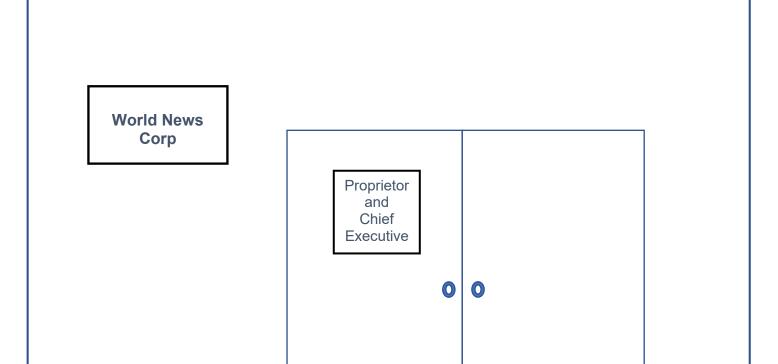
'What do you think Chief?'

'Well....I'm not sure.'

'It's a great story Chief'

'Well....Bozzo and I were at Winchester together and it was only a few weeks ago he invited Penelope and I to Chequers........'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Nurses dying, that sort of thing?'



- 'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'
- 'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from the police...'

'Right men. I'm sorry there isn't enough room but if you can all get as close to each other as you can we will manage. Stop jostling, link arms if necessary. Now, I've had enough of these clowns getting fresh air at the beach, so it must stop. In my forty odd years in the force, from a lowly bobby to Chief Constable I think I know what's right and wrong. I get stats every day telling me things like that'

- 'What are stats Sir?'
- 'They're sort of numbers, sometimes they have long lines on, sometimes in different colours, sometimes they go up, sometimes down'
- 'What are they for sir?'
- 'They help me to understand what is happening out there, what the public want, what we should give, how to respond in a real time, real world situation'
- 'Very impressive sir. It's a good job we have you'
- 'Thank you. Right. Now later this morning I want you all to go to the beach and mingle. Catch those that are breathing too much fresh air and watching the waves too long. Got that?'
- 'Yes sir. What about groups sir?
- 'I'm pretty sure groups are ok as long as they are not having fun. Fun is definitely illegal' 'Right sir'
- 'Good. To help you fit in we have purchased a load of Speedo trunks and everyone will be given fifty pence for an ice cream......Oh, and when you've finished hand your trunks in to any woman police officer for washing......'
- 'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'
- 'Well....I'm not sure. If there are riots, I may need them....'
- 'Shall I find something else Chief? Err...golf courses to be dug up and used as graveyards?' 'That would be better....'

World News
Corp

Proprietor
and
Chief
Executive

'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from the the White House...'

'Right, what we need are things that help our nation in this dire hour' 'What kinds of things Mister President?'

'Things to give them exercise, things to give them an escape from home, things that help their brain, mental agility and math'

'Of course, Sir, shall we open playing fields, leisure areas and schools?' 'Hell no! I'm talking Golf Courses, Hotels and Casinos' 'Sir?'

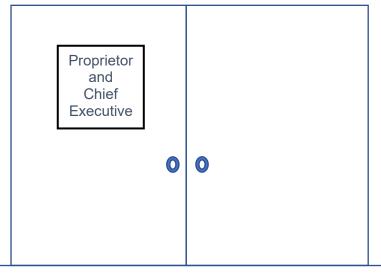
'And only those that are designated as 'Emergency Alternatives' 'How do we classify those Sir?'

'Anything owned by me......'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure......I mean, Donald may have a point...?'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err...Price Andrew may have Aids...?' 'That would be better....'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from a US Auction House......'

'Right ladies and gentlemen are you all ready at your monitors...? Good, let's begin.....Just one sec....that was the British NHS Procurement Department on the phone, their monitor has broken and they haven't got a spare.....Ah well, better luck next time. ...So, the First Lot is one million face masks. You have the spec, what am I bid.....?'

'A dollar!'

'A dollar ten!'

'Dollar fifteen'

'Dollar twenty-five'

'Any more? I have a dollar twenty five from the State of Louisiana.....?'

'Three dollars!'

'I have three dollars. Anyone? Three dollars ten cents? No? Lot one to President Trump. Moving onA consignment about to come into JFK of surgical quality gowns......what am I bid...?'

'Two dollars!'

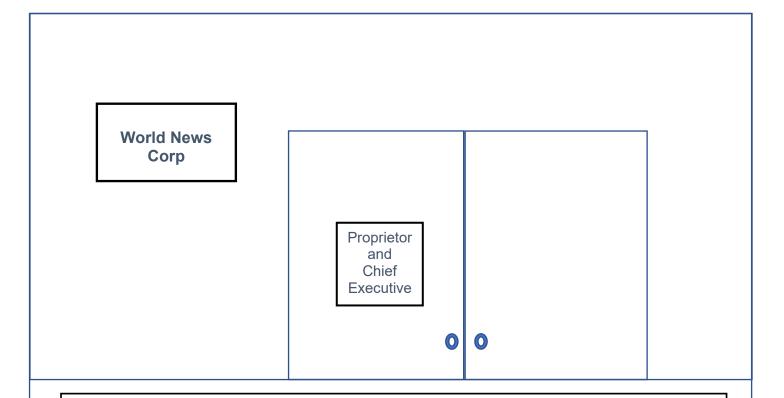
'Two dollars te....'

'Five dollars!'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....I know Credit Suisse quite well.......

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....Andy Cuomo heard speaking Chinese on the phone.....?'



'Morning Editor, what have we got?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from our Cabinet informant'

'Have you seen that Andrew Cuomo on tv? What a prat. He sits there with all his graphs and slides, explaining what they all mean and then, and then, tells everyone about the situation no less. I mean, what a prat...'

'I've seen him. He addresses the people as though he's one of them. For goodness sake, how demeaning. He hasn't even got a lectern. How can you address people without a lectern? How would they know how important you are without a lectern? And his accent....ughh'

'Did you know he gets about two hundred thousand dollars for that job? Two hundred thousand for looking after a few people in a State and we only get a hundred and fifty grand for the incredible job we're doing! A hundred and fifty grand! And we're running a country! It's ridiculous'

'I think there has to be a strategic change in the way our status is looked at. Our jobs are no less important than, say....the boss of a big pharmaceutical company. I mean, what do they do? Ask a question, and then hordes of minions scurry around for the answer. That's no different to what we do...'

'I agree. We are more than likely the best educated, most dynamic Cabinet in the world and we should be seen as so. What do you think? Shall we do something about it?' 'Yes. As soon as these pharma companies sort out vaccines and things, and this is over, and then a good holiday or two, I think there should be an Enquiry into our pathetic remuneration'

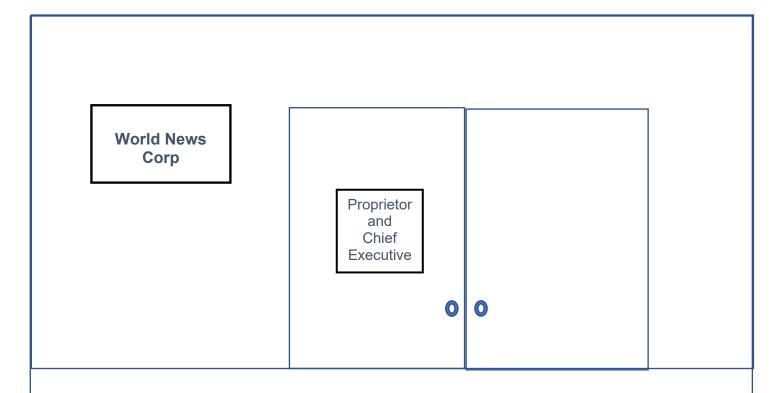
'Won't that mean they will enquire into us? You know 'So you want more money, tell us again how many people died?' sort of thing...'

'Aahh, that's a point...... Well, moving on, has anybody managed to finish todays crossword..?'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....l'm not sure..... it may not be good for people to realise they get a hundred and fifty grand at the moment......?'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err.....Nichola leaving husband for Alex....'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from one of our contributors in a US southern State.....'

'Right men, as Sheriff in these parts, I want to stress we have an important role to play in these dreadful times. As you know we have had some bad press over the last few years due to the unfortunate and accidental shooting of black males. Whilst we didn't know it at the time, many were unarmed, and the public, for some reason, saw that as a reason not to shoot them. So here is an opportunity to redeem ourselves and get some well-deserved praise and PR. So...have you got it right...?'

'Yes sir!'

'Clarence, let's hear you do your stop....'

'Stop! Do you have Covid 19?'

'Then what Clarence?'

'If he says, 'yes' I shout, 'He's spitting on me' and then I open fire'

'And if he says 'no'?'

'If he says 'no' I shout, 'He's spitting on me' and then I open fire'

'Well done, Clarence.'

'Thank you, Sheriff,'

'So, you see men, we have a chance to kill two birds with one stone, and get public opinion behind us...'

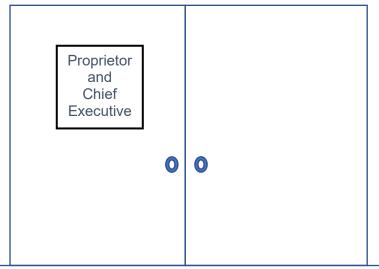
'What do you think Chief?'

'Well....I'm not sure.'

'It's a great story Chief'

'Well.....you do know Penelope and I have a place in the Carolinas...?'

'Ok Chief, how about 'Should old people stop receiving treatment to free up resources'?'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one from the Covid Strategy Team at NHS Headquarters'

'Ok teams, come on come on, you can do it! Who is going to be the team that gets to a solution first? Team One?'

'Very close'

'Team Two?'

Nearly sir, nearly'

'Team Three'

'Struggling a bit, I'm afraid'

'You can do it; you can do it. Dig deep, a lot depends on it'

'Team Four?'

'Team Four?'

'Sorry, we were concentrating so hard'

'Come on, come on. Give everything to your Team. I know you are exhausted, what with having to leave fifteen minutes late every evening, but be innovative, be bold, be adventurous, give your all to win. We started at nine and now its four thirty so by now.....'

'Done it sir, done it. We win, we win!'

'Well done Team Two, well done'

'We didn't realise Candy Crush was so difficult sir.......'

'What do you think Chief?'

'Well....I'm not sure.'

'It's a great story Chief'

'Well....it may not be good for morale......'

'Shall I find something else Chief? How about Meryl Streep may have the virus?'

'Has she?'

'Could have'

'Pen and I went to Meryl's last summer. Anybody else?'

'Beyonce?'

'Who?'

'We'll go with that...'

Proprietor and Chief Executive

'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from New York...'

'Watch it Chief here's another...'

(whistle.....thud)

'That was a close one. You really wouldn't one of those to drop on you from thirty storeys.....look at the mess......brains and blood all over the place.... It's dangerous enough being a police officer without worrying about being squashed to death!'

'Oh, oh here's another Chief.....watch out over there! You! Watch out!......Oh shit.....two in one...'

'I wish they'd read the frigging packet. It's quite clear 'Hydroxychloroquine causes mood swings.....'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....I think my children's Trust Fund has some shares in the company that makes it.........'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err.....police planning large party to celebrate their success at enforcing social distancing.....?'

World News Corp **Proprietor** and Chief Executive

'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from one of our roving parabolic microphones......'

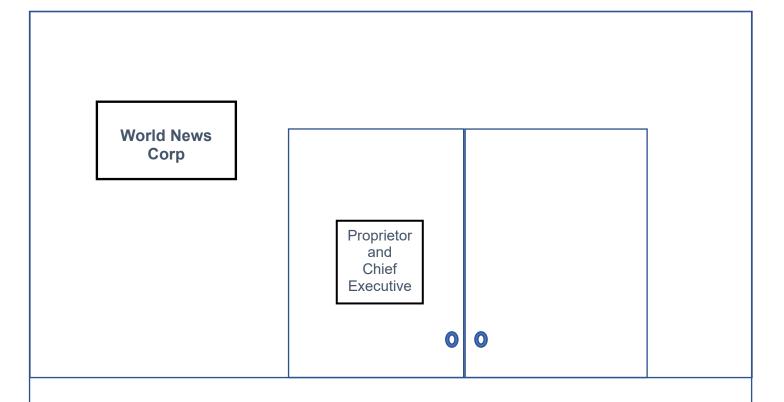
'Sunak, you bastard. You pompous, supercilious bastard.....'

'.....Are you shouting at the Briefing again darling...?'
'..... Look at you, giving out all the taxpayers money as though it was coming from your own pocket. Look at you, standing there like a fucking Hasbro Action Man. 'Look at me, look at me, aren't I wonderful'. Not you're fucking not, you jumped up, preening, Asian prick....... God...oh God....why now? Why the fuck didn't you do it a few weeks earlier? I was there, I was ready, I was the man. Theee man. Not that thumb sucker. Why God, why? It should have been me! It should have been meeeeeeee......... 'Come and get your dinner love Sajid, can you hear me....?'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....what if Sunak annoys Boris and Javid comes back....?'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....hose pipe ban could start in two weeks...?'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from our roving parabolic mic....'

'Come on love, the News is on'

'One mo, just making a cuppa. Want a biscuit?'

'Please...... It's that man from the World Health Organisation'

'..... Ello der. I am teddy from de who. De what? No, de who. Not de were, or de why, or de wen, de who...... I ave impotent news for you.

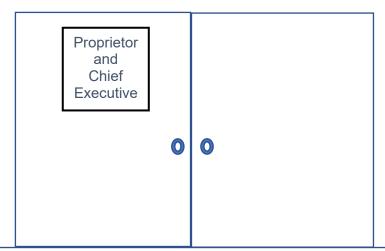
Analy..... we av looked at tings and dey say lil kids should be out playin, but not moms and pops.... Also, sweets should.....'

'Love, I don't understand, I think he's drunk'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....I'm not sure.....it may give kids too many ideas...'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....Keir Starmer, Angela Rayner and Jeremy Corbyn in love triangle...?'



'Morning Editor, what have we got.....?'

'Morning Chief. There's a good one today from China....'

'Good morning President Xi.'

'How is our strategy working?'

'Very well Excellency. We are selling our old medical ventilators and protective equipment all over the world. Nations are paying top dollar, in fact top anything, to get it'

'A little while ago we were an insular communist nation that had a lot of people but not too much wealth and power....'

'And now your Excellency?'

'Now we have wealth and power, we are more capitalist than the Americans but......'

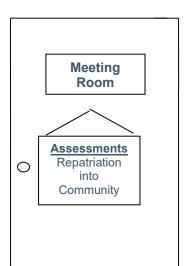
'Yes, your Excellency?'

'......A virus jumps species from bats to snakes, our poor eat them, become ill, and it spreads round the world. Not only do we not get blamed for it, thanks to our superb propaganda machine, we sell them medical equipment to help them fight it. So, we make money and get considerable praise for helping to save the world. However, it occurs to me that we, as the Americans say, have missed a trick. There is a saying, and I wish it had been Confucius, but it was David Foster Wallace, 'Addiction is something that presents itself as the solution to the problems it causes.' I want you to produce as many millions of new masks, aprons and other protective equipment as you can. The highest quality. I want the world to clamour for them Our answer to the problem we have caused will be providing millions and millions of items of protection. All with Corvid incorporated in them to be unleashed when worn....'

'What do you think Chief? It's a great story'

'Well....l'm not sure. He showed Pen and I around the Forbidden City. A nice man, a really nice man...... So more than likely false anyway. The CIA or something.......'

'Shall I find something else Chief? Err....Meghan offers to be Queen of America.....?'



'Ah, good morning, Neil. You were sent here by the PM who, as you know, has very high standards when it comes to public life and serving the nation' 'Quite'

'You were seen watching porn in Parliament which, I think, you thought was a tractor site?'

'Obviously a mistake'

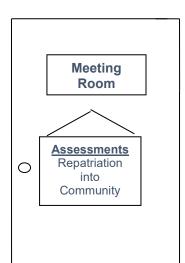
'But it has cost you dear?'

'Deere?'

'Dear'

'Oh god. John Deere, Mahindra, oh god, Massey Ferguson, Case, oh no, oh no, Kubota, Fendt.....aaaaaaahhhhhh. Do you have any Kleeenex...?

'Perhaps a little longer....'



'Good morning how....'

'I'm very good. As you will see from the TV coverage, our fine men are beating back the Russians and morale is high'

'But.....'

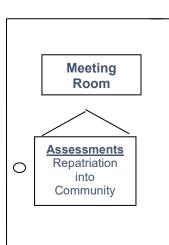
'There are no buts. The world sees us, mainly through me, their leader, as a nation that will not give up. We have the backing of most of the world due to our plight and my messages to that world.'

However...'

'It is obviously fortunate that I was leader at that time. As they say 'Come the hour, come the man'. Some are leaders, some are followers. I am lucky to have been blessed with that quality.'

'But...

'I have said it before, there are no buts. People knew me before as a comedian; light, lacking substance, needing attention and getting it through humour. But my leadership of the Ukrainian people has shown that leadership, an inner strength, resolve, unwavering principles of truth and principle will always win in the end. Anyhow I must go now. My people need me, the world needs me..' 'Perhaps just a little longer Boris....'



'Come in.....come in.....'

'I'm in. I'm in front of you'

'Oh'

'Shall I take a seat?'

'Err...please do'

'According to my notes and schedule, you were sent here to try and help you be more dynamic, more charismatic, more popular, morevisible'

'I believe so'

'Oh, you've moved'

'Just getting some water'

'So, what do you think now? Now you've had time to reflect?'

'Well..'

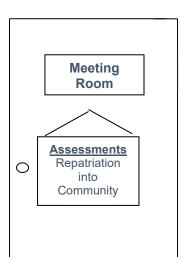
'You've moved again?'

'I'm on the couch. Anyhow, as I was about to say, I have thought long and hard about the problem.'

'And....?'

'And what?'

'Just a little longer Sir Keir...'



'Good morning, Vladimir, how are you today?'

'Good, very good'

'Your Generals sedated you and sent you here for a little rest to help calm you down.'

'I don't think so'

'They felt you were getting a little too optimistic, and a touch confused?'

'I don't think so'

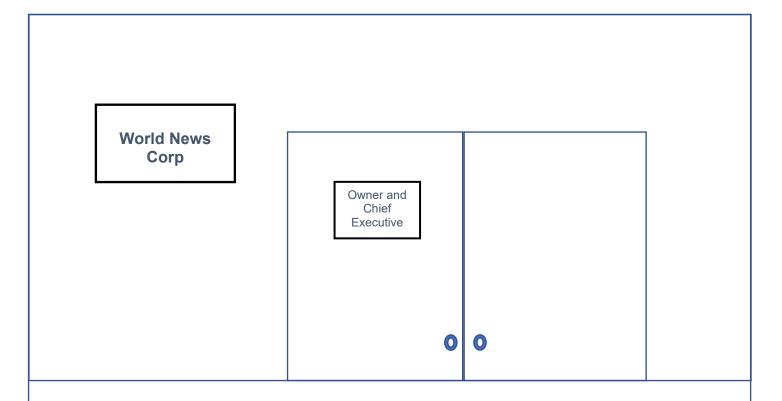
'Ok. If I let you go today, what are you going to do?'

'Now we have taken Kyiv it is time to move on. Nato is weak and the US is led by an incontinent old man, so it is time'

'Time for ..?'

'Operation Barbarossa.'

'Perhaps a little longer...'



'Morning Editor, tell me what's going on?'

'Going on Chief?'

'Yes. A couple of weeks ago we buried a story from a mole in the Cabinet who told us about Cummings and his jaunt and asked us to keep it to ourselves if we were told of it. 'Is that correct?'

'Yes Chief'

'And now everyone has got it and we haven't?'

'Yes Chief

'Why? Has our mole swapped allegiances?'

'No Chief'

'So....?'

'Our original so-called mole was Cummings. He wanted it kept quiet and he told us so that we could stifle it if it came up, with a guarantee of titbits farther down the line'

'I can see that'

'So, who is this mole?'

'Not really a mole Chief. We had several phone calls from, let me see.......Dominic Raab, Priti Patel, Robert Buckland, Ben Wallace, Rishi Sunak, Michael Gove, Matt Hancock, Elizabeth Truss and a few others...'

'Christ! All we need now is Boris Johnson'

'Oh sorry Chief, he rang first.........'