

## EPISODE ONE

### To Business

*Scene: an office: a switchboard, filing cabinet, adding machine, typewriter and table, manifold machine.*

*Sounds: office machines: typewriters, adding machine, manifold, telephone bells, buzzers.*

#### *Characters and their machines*

A YOUNG WOMAN (typewriter)  
A STENOGRAPHER (typewriter)  
A FILING CLERK (filing cabinet and manifold)  
AN ADDING CLERK (adding machine)  
TELEPHONE OPERATOR (switchboard)  
JONES

#### *Before the curtain*

*Sounds of machines going. They continue throughout the scene, and accompany the YOUNG WOMAN's thoughts after the scene is blacked out.*

#### *At the rise of the curtain*

*All the machines are disclosed, and all the characters with the exception of the YOUNG WOMAN.*

*Of these characters, the YOUNG WOMAN, going any day to any business. Ordinary. The confusion of her own inner thoughts, emotions, desires, dreams cuts her off from any actual adjustment to the routine of work. She gets through this routine with a very small surface of her consciousness. She is not homely and she is not pretty. She is preoccupied with herself with her person. She has well kept hands, and a trick of constantly arranging her hair over her ears.*

*The STENOGRAPHER is the faded, efficient woman office worker. Drying, dried.*

*The ADDING CLERK is her male counterpart.*

*The FILING CLERK is a boy not grown, callow adolescence.*

*The TELEPHONE GIRL, young, cheap and amorous.*

*Lights come up on office scene. Two desks right and left.*

*Telephone booth back right center. Filing cabinet back of center.  
Adding machine back left center.*

ADDING CLERK (*in the monotonous voice of his monotonous  
thoughts; at his adding machine*). 2490, 28, 76, 123, 36842, 1,  
1/4, 37, 804, 23 1/2, 982.

FILING CLERK (*in the same way - at his filing desk*). Accounts -  
A. Bonds - B. Contracts - C. Data - D. Earnings - E.

STENOGRAPHER (*in the same way - left*). Dear Sir - in re - your  
letter - recent date - will state -

TELEPHONE GIRL. Hello - Hello - George H. Jones Company  
good morning - hello hello - George H. Jones Company good  
morning - hello.

FILING CLERK. Market - M. Notes - N. Output - 0. Profits -  
P. - ! (*Suddenly*.) What's the matter with Q?

TELEPHONE GIRL. Matter with it - Mr. J. - Mr. K. wants you -  
What you mean matter? Matter with what?

FILING CLERK. Matter with Q.

TELEPHONE GIRL. Well - what is? Spring 1726?

FILING CLERK. I'm asking yuh -

TELEPHONE GIRL. WELL?

FILING CLERK. Nothing filed with it -

TELEPHONE GIRL. Well?

FILING CLERK. Look at A. Look at B. What's the matter with Q?

TELEPHONE GIRL. Ain't popular. Hello - Hello - George H.  
Jones Company.

FILING CLERK. Hot dog! Why ain't it?

ADDING CLERK. Has it personality?

STENOGRAPHER. Has it Halitosis?

TELEPHONE GIRL. Has it got it?

FILING CLERK. Hot dog!

TELEPHONE GIRL. What number do you want? (*Recognizing but  
not pleased*.) O h - hello - sure I know who it is - tonight? Uh,  
u h - (*Negative, but each with a different inflection*.) You heard  
me - No!

FILING CLERK. Don't you like him?

STENOGRAPHER. She likes 'em all.

TELEPHONE GIRL. I do not!

STESOOORAPHER. Well - pretty near all!

TELEPHONE GIRL. What number do you want? Wrong number.  
Hello - hello - George H. Jones Company. Hello, hello -

S'fEIJOORAPHER. Memorandum - attention Mr. Smith - at a  
conference of -

ADDING CLERK. 125 - 83 3/4 - 22 - 908 - 34 - 1/4 - 28593.

FILING CLERK. Report - R, Sales - S, Trade - T.

TELEPHONE GIRL. Shh - ! Yes, Mr. J. - ? No - Miss A. ain't in  
yet - I'll tell her, Mr. J. - just the minute she gets in.

STENOGRAPHER. She's late again, huh?

TELEPHONE GIRL. Out with her sweetie last night, huh?

FILING CLERK. Hot dog.

ADDING CLERK. She ain't got a sweetie.

STENOGRAPHER. How do you know?

ADDING CLERK. I know.

FILING CLERK. Hot dog.

ADDING CLERK. She lives alone with her mother.

TELEPHONE GIRL. Spring 1876? Hello - Spring 1876. Spring!  
Hello, Spring 1876? 1876! Wrong number! Hello! Hello!

STENOGRAPHER. Director's meeting semi-annual report card.

FILING CLERK. Shipments - Sales - Schedules - S.

ADDING CLERK. She doesn't belong in an office.

TELEPHONE GIRL. Who does?

STENOGRAPHER. I do!

ADDING CLERK. You said it!

FILING CLERK. Hot dog!

TELEPHONE GIRL. Hello - hello - George H. Jones Company -  
hello - hello -

STENOGRAPHER. I'm efficient. She's inefficient.

FILING CLERK. She's inefficient.

TELEPHONE GIRL. She's got J. going.

STENOGRAPHER. Going?

TELEPHONE GIRL. Going and coming.

FILING CLERK. Hot dog.