



DRAGNET

CHESTERFIELD #35 NBC #203 RELEASE DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1953

DIRECTOR.....JACK WEBB
WRITER.....JOHN ROBINSON
MUSIC.....WALTER SCHUMANN
SCRIPT.....JEAN MILES
SOUND.....BUD TOLLEFSON &
 WAYNE KENWORTHY
ENGINEER.....RAOUL MURPHY
ANNCR. #1.....GEORGE FENNEMAN
ANNCR. #2.....HAL GIBNEY, NBC
CASE....."THE BIG JOKE"

SPONSOR....CHESTERFIELD CIGARETTES
AGENCY.....CUNNINGHAM-WALSH
COMMERCIAL SUPERVISOR.....
 PETE PETERSON

TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

SQT. MARTY WYNN: L.A.P.D.
SQT. VANCE BRASHER: L.A.P.D.
CAPT. JOHN DONOHUE: L.A.P.D.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

RECORDING: SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1953

CAST AND SOUND: 2:30 - 5:00 PM

EDITING: T.B.A.

SCORING: T.B.A.

ORCHESTRA:

ANNOUNCERS: (COMMERCIAL)

BROADCAST: 6:30 - 7:00 PM - STUDIO J - BY T.R.

*Agency
Cut & Taped*

1 MUSIC: SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD"
2 GIBNEY: Sound off for Chesterfield.
3 MUSIC: "SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD" DRUM ROLL
4 GIBNEY: Chesterfield is best for you. First cigarette with
5 premium quality in both regular and king size.
6 Chesterfield brings you Dragnet.
7 MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE
8 FENN: (EASILY) Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are about
9 to hear is true. The names have been changed to *30*
10 protect the innocent.
11 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:
12 FENN: You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to
13 Homicide Detail. You get a call from a friend who's
14 been offered five thousand dollars to kill a man. He
15 can't tell you who made the offer. He does tell you
16 that no matter what happens, the man is going to be
17 killed. Your job ... stop it.
18 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

59 → 145

DRAGNET - RADIO

~~4-26-53~~

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FIRST COMMERCIAL:

- 1 GIBNEY: (ECHO) ~~Years~~ ahead of them all.
- 2 FENN: Chesterfield is years ahead of them all.
- 3 GIBNEY: The quality contrast between Chesterfield and other leading
4 brands is a revealing story. 115
- 5 FENN: ~~Recent~~ chemical analyses give an index of good quality for
6 the country's six leading cigarette brands. The index of
7 good quality table...which is a ratio of high sugar to low
8 nicotine...shows Chesterfield quality highest.
- 9 GIBNEY: (FILTER) Chesterfield quality highest. 130
- 10 FENN: Fifteen per cent higher than it's nearest competitor.
- 11 GIBNEY: (FILTER) ~~Chesterfield~~ quality highest.
- 12 FENN: Thirty-one per cent higher than the average of the five
13 other leading brands.
- 14 GIBNEY: Yes - Chesterfield is first with PREMIUM QUALITY in both
regular and king-size.
- 15 FENN: Don't you want to try a cigarette with a record like this?
16 Chesterfield! 145

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 GIBNEY: Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For
3 the next thirty minutes in cooperation with the Los
4 Angeles Police Department, you will travel step by step ^{2/00}
5 on the side of the law through an actual case
6 transcribed from official police files. From beginning
7 to end....from crime to punishment...Dragnet is the
8 story of your police force in action.

9 MUSIC: UP TO SEMI BUTTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD

10 SOUND: WE HEAR JOE'S STEPS DOWN CORRIDOR..SLIGHT ECHO IN B.G.
11 AND CORRIDOR B.G.

12 JOE: It was Monday, February 9th. It was cold in Los
13 Angeles. We were working the day watch out of Homicide
14 detail. My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain
15 Lohrman. My name's Friday. I was on my way in to the
16 office and it was 7:45 A.M. when I got to room 42....

17 (SOUND: DOOR OPEN) ... Homicide. ^{2/30}

18 SOUND: DOOR CLOSE AND JOE WALKS INTO THE ROOM...B.G. CHANGES

19 FRANK: (OFF SLIGHTLY) That you Joe?

20 JOE: Yeah.

21 SOUND: JOE WALKS TO FRANK

22 JOE: You're in early.

23 FRANK: Yeah. I couldn't sleep last night. Dropped off about
24 3 this morning then woke up at 5. Couldn't go back to
25 sleep. Got up and made some coffee and decided to come
26 on in.

1 JOE: I had trouble sleeping last night too.
2 FRANK: What's the matter?
3 JOE: I don't know. Got up late yesterday morning. Guess
4 that was it.
5 FRANK: I was in a knot last night when I went to bed. Fay and
6 I had another beef.
7 JOE: What about this time?
8 FRANK: Cards...y'know Canasta?
9 JOE: Yeah.
10 FRANK: Kids next door came over after dinner and we got to
11 playin'. They play real good...wasn't long before we
12 were really gettin' schlocked.
13 JOE: Schlocked?
14 FRANK: Yeah...you know really beaten. Terrible.
15 JOE: Yeah.
16 FRANK: Last hand, they got down right away. Seemed like
17 everything I threw they could use. Wasn't anything I
18 could do right. They just kept building up melds.
19 Big thing was to get out as quick as we could. Get
20 the hand over with.
21 JOE: Uh huh.
22 FRANK: Fay wasn't doin' any good. Finally, I still don't know
23 how they let it happen, I got the points to go down...
24 so I asked Fay if it was okay. Y'know...you have to do
25 that. Ask your partner's permission to get the hand
26 over with.
27 JOE: Yeah....I've played a couple of times.

1 FRANK: Well, Joe...you might not believe it but she said no.
2 Just sat there and said that she didn't think it was time.
3 JOE: That right?
4 FRANK: Yeah. I know it's kinda picky but there they were...
5 the other kids just kept pilin' points up. Schlocking
6 us all over the place.
7 JOE: Schlockin' you.
8 FRANK: Yeah. Hand went around a couple more times. Each time,
9 I'd ask Fay if she wanted to get out. Each time she'd say
10 no.
11 JOE: Yeah. Well, what finally happened?
12 FRANK: The other kids ran out of cards. Wasn't any more to
13 play so they got out. 36 hundred points. And then I
14 found out why Fay didn't want to quit.
15 JOE: Why?
16 FRANK: Had a duece.
17 JOE: What?
18 FRANK: A duece...y'know a two. She said that she didn't want to
19 get caught with it.
20 JOE: Yeah....well, let's get started huh?
21 FRANK: That's not the worst of it Joe.
22 JOE: Huh?
23 FRANK: That's not the worst of it. All night we were playin'.
24 All night. And I'm savin' cards. 10's. Y'know...I like
25 to get 10's.
26 JOE: Yeah.
27 FRANK: Get all through and we find that there are only 7 tens
28 in the deck. One of 'ems missing. All night and only
29 7 tens.
30 JOE: Yeah.

1 FRANK: Schlocked.
2 JOE: Uh huh.
3 FRANK: Didn't sleep a wink.
4 JOE: Yeah. et's go.
5 SOUND: PHONE RING
6 JOE: I'll get it.
7 SOUND: JOE WALKS TO THE PHONE...PUNCHES BUTTON AND PICKS UP
8 RECEIVER
9 JOE: Homicide, Friday. Yeah...Uh huh. Yeah...Yeah I remember.
10 Johnnie. Uh huh. When'd you get the letter? Yeah.
11 Yeah..we'll be right over. Right. G'bye.
12 SOUND: JOE HANGS UP THE PHONE AND TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS BACK
13 TO FRANK
14 JOE: You remember the bartender in the place over on 6th..
15 fella named Johnnie?
16 FRANK: Yeah...That him on the phone? 3/10
17 JOE: Yeah. Say's he got an offer to make himself a fast five
18 thousand dollars.
19 FRANK: Lotta money.
20 JOE: Not to kill a man
END SCENE 1

1 JOE: 8:10 A.M. Frank and I drove over to John Bronson's
2 apartment. He lived in a new development on Wilshire
3 Boulevard. We checked the nameplates in the lobby of the
4 building and then went up to Apartment 6 B. We rang
5 the bell and waited.
6 SOUND: DOOR OPEN
7 JOHN: Hi Joe...Frank....C'mon in. 3135
8 JOE AND FRANK SAY HI ETC.
9 SOUND: THEY WALK INTO THE APARIMENT AND CLOSE THE DOOR.
10 JOHN: Kinda early to get you guys over here but I got worried
11 about it and figured I better talk to you.
12 JOE: Uh huh. You wanna tell us what it's all about?
13 JOHN: Yeah...c'mon out in the kitchen...I got some coffee made.
14 SOUND: THEY WALK OUT INTO THE KITCHEN.
15 JOHN: Sit down there....I'll pour you a cuppa coffee.
16 SOUND: AS JOHN TALKS WE HEAR HIM GO TO CUPBOARD AND TAKE CUPS
17 AND SAUCERS OUT. HE POURS COFFEE AND THEN COMES BACK
18 TO THE TABLE AND SITS DOWN.
19 JOHN: (AS HE WORKS) Well, it started last night. I guess it
20 was about 10.....10:15.
21 JOE: Yeah.
22 JOHN: Pay phone in the bar rang...kept ringing and I went over 4/10
23 to answer it. Fella on the other end asked for Johnnie.
24 I told him it was me and then he hit me with the deal.
25 First I thought he was kiddin'.
26 FRANK: What'd he say!
27 JOHN: Asked me if I wanted to make a fast five thousand.
28 'Course I told him yeah. Then he sprung the snapper.
29 Said he wanted me to kill this guy. Fella named
30Wilhelm Uhrich.

1 JOE: You know this Uhlrich?
2 JOHN: No...never laid eyes on him. First time I even heard
3 the name.
4 JOE: Alright...go ahead.
5 JOHN: This guy on the phone started to lay it out. Told me
6 how he wanted it done.
7 JOHN: (COMES BACK TO THE TABLE) Here's your coffee.
8 SOUND: HE PUTS DOWN THE CUPS. AND PULLS UP A CHAIR AND SITS
9 DOWN WITH THE OFFICERS.
10 JOHN: I asked the joker who he was, but he said that it didn't
11 matter.. All that counted he said, was that I knock off
12 this Uhlrich guy. 4/30
13 JOE: Yeah.
14 JOHN: I told him that I didn't know who the man was. That I
15 didn't know where to get in touch with him to kill him...
16 Y'know, kinda goin' along with the gag. All this time,
17 I thought it was a joke.
18 FRANK: Uh huh.
19 JOHN: This fella on the phone said that he'd give me all the
20 dope I had to have. Said I'd get it in the mail this
21 morning.
22 JOE: Yeah.
23 JOHN: Came special delivery...just before I called you. Special
24 JOE: Can we see the letter?
25 JOHN: Sure. I got it in the other room. I'll get it for you.
26 SOUND: HE GET'S UP AND WALKS INTO THE NEXT ROOM. TALKING AS HE
27 GOES.
28 JOHN: I looked at it when I found out what was in it, figured
29 I better call you. Couldn't see any way to tell who
30 sent it. Maybe you can when you see it. 5/07
31 SOUND: HE FADES BACK INTO THE KITCHEN

1 JOHN: Here it is.
2 JOE: (TAKING LETTER) Thanks.
3 SOUND: HE OPENS LETTER CAREFULLY
4 JOE: Money.
5 JOHN: Yeah...five one hundred dollar bills.
6 FRANK: What's the letter say?
7 JOE: (READING) Johnnie. Here's the downpayment. You'll get
8 the rest when you finish job. The name is Wilhelm
9 Uhlrich. The address is 2192 Vine Street, Hollywood. 5/30
10 (SOUND: HE TURNS PAPER OVER) No signature. That's all.
11 FRANK: Lemme see it.
12 JOE: Here y'go.
13 SOUND: HE HANDS FRANK THE LETTER
14 JOHN: First off I thought the whole thing was a joke. I didn't
15 believe it. Y'know I just thought it was some drunk
16 trying to be funny. We get calls like that all the time.
17 Guys tryin' to be funny. Then when I got this letter I
18 got scared. I ain't gonna kill nobody. Special
19 somebody I don't even know. Not for no five thousand.
20 JOE: Did you recognize the voice on the phone?
21 JOHN: No. I don't think I ever heard it before.
22 JOE: You got any idea why he'd call you?
23 JOHN: No. I been clean. I haven't got a record. Nothin'
24 like that. I run a clean place. Never done anything
25 that could tie me up with the rackets. 6/20
26 JOE: Uh huh.

1 JOHN: Oh maybe I ran a little booze during prohibition...not
2 much, just a little. Everybody was doin' it then.
3 But I'm clean now.

4 FRANK: Postmark here on the letter. Mailed from Hollywood.

5 JOE: Yeah...we can check the postal authorities on the mail
6 box number. Find out when it was picked up.

7 FRANK: Time on it is 11:45 last night. That's the time it
8 was processed.

9 JOE: (TO JOHN) You sure that you don't know Uhlrich?
10 Possible that he's been in your bar sometime?

11 JOHN: That'd be hard to say. We do a good business lotsa
12 people come in that I don't know. Y'know just come in 6/30
13 once in a while. I wouldn't know who they were. They
14 keep quiet and I ain't gonna get nosey.

15 JOE: Yeah. Well, we'll go on back to the office. You'll
16 probably hear from the caller again. As soon as you
17 do, let us know.

18 JOHN: You gonna see this Uhlrich fella?

19 JOE: Yeah, we'll talk to him.

20 SOUND: THE OFFICERS GET UP AND START TO WALK OUT OF THE APT.

21 JOE: Might be better if you didn't say anything about this
22 to anybody.

23 JOHN: Don't worry. I won't.

24 JOE: We'll be talkin' to you later. You be at the bar?

25 JOHN: Yeah. I'll be there at four.

26 JOE: Okay. Thanks Johnnie.

27 JOHN: No strain. Glad to do it. Can't get over it. That guy
28 cglin and makin' an offer like that. Can't get over it.
29 He should know better.

30 JOE: Yean? 7/00

31 JOHN: Sure. I ain't gonna kill somebody I don't even know.
32 END SCENE 2

NARRATIONS
THE BIG JOKE
May 10, 1953

JOE: We drove back to the city hall and turned the letter over to the Crime Lab to see if they could find any physical evidence to help us identify the writer. We ran the name Wilhelm Uhlrich through R and I and found no record. We checked the name through Crime Report and came up with one possibility. The address listed on the report was the same as the one given in the letter. We pulled the package and checked it.

1 JOE: We drove back to the city hall and turned the letter
2 over to the crime lab to see if they could find any
3 physical evidence to help us identifying the writer.
4 We ran the name Wilhelm Uhlrich through R. and I. and
5 came up with two possibles. One of them lived at the
6 address listed on the letter. We pulled the package
7 and went back to the squadroom.

8 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G...JOE AND FRANK WALK IN...DOOR CLOSE

9 BEHIND THEM

10 FRANK: Let's take a look at it.

11 JOE: Right.

12 SOUND: THEY SIT DOWN AND OPEN PACKAGE.

13 JOE: ~~Crime~~ report and a statement here. Report from Georgia
14 Street Receiving Hospital

15 FRANK: What's the date on it?

16 JOE: January 2 last year. (READS BRIEFLY) Seems this Uhlrich
17 got ahold of some bad wine.

18 FRANK: Wait a minute.

19 JOE: Yeah?

20 FRANK: Don't you remember Joe....The old fella german. Got
21 the bottle of wine for Christmas. Opened it New Years
22 day. We worked on the case with La Monica and Galindo.

23 JOE: Yeah...I remember now. Sure. We ran down some of the
24 leads for 'em. Didn't go anywhere. That was the one
25 where he didn't know where the wine came from isn't it?

26 FRANK: Yeah. Nothin' much came out of it. Leads didn't go
27 anyplace.

7/30

8/00

1 JOE: As I remember, a nice old guy. Wonder why somebody's
2 after him?

3 FRANK: I dunno. Last time we couldn't find anybody with a
4 motive.

5 JOE: Well, there's one someplace. Let's try to find it.

6 END SCENE THREE

7

NARRATIONS
THE BIG JOKE
May 10, 1953

JOE: We'd helped investigate an attempted poisoning of Wilhelm Uhlrich over a year ago. Someone had sent him a bottle of imported wine. Uhlrich had opened the wine for dinner on New Years and had drunk some of it. A short time later he was siezed with violent stomach cramps. He was rushed to Georgia Street Receiving Hospital for treatment. He was transfered to the County Hospital for further treatment. Examination of the remaining wine showed that it had been dosed with a quantity of poison. Fortunately Uhlrich didn't drink much of the poisoned wine and recovered. Detectives Joe La Monica and Danny Galinbo had handled most of the investigation. We'd helped them briefly in checking out some of the leads they'd gotten. We checked with them again on the case. From the crime report we got a list of the people that the two officers had interviewed. We checked with them and they gave us as much personal information as they could. 1:15 P.M. We drove out to see Wilhelm Uhlrich. We found him in the yard digging in a rose bed.

1 WIL: No, I can't understand it. I never quite believed that
2 about the wine, Sir.
3 JOE: Why do you say that, Mr. Uhlrich?
4 WIL: Well, I found it hard to believe, in my heart that
5 anyone would want to do me harm. I have no enemies.
6 No one that hates me enough to want to kill me. I'm
7 sure of that.
8 JOE: I'm afraid you might be wrong about that Mr. Uhlrich.
9 WIL: The officers said that before. Somehow though, I just
10 can't believe it. I have nothing anyone would want to
11 kill me for. All of the people I know are my friends. 9/30
12 We all get along.
13 SOUND: HE SNIPS A ROSE FROM A BUSH
14 WIL: Look at that. Beautiful? Such loveliness! (SMELLS
15 ROSE) No....I'm sorry officers. You're mistaken about
16 this.
17 FRANK: Wonder if we could talk to you in the house, Sir?
18 WIL: Yes...that might be better. I could make you a cup of
19 hot tea if you'd like.
20 JOE: No sir....thanks just the same.
21 SOUND: THE THREE OF THEM START TO WALK INTO THE HOUSE...UP A
22 COUPLE OF WOODEN STAIRS AND THEN INTO THE HOUSE
23 WIL: (AS THEY WALK) Have you officers had lunch yet?
24 FRANK: Yes sir.
25 WIL: Oh...thought maybe you'd like a sandwich. Just got
26 some liverworst....From a little place downtown...
27 German. Excellent food.
28 JOE: Uh huh.... 10/00

1 WIL: Here...I'll get the door.
2 SOUNC: DOOR OPEN AND THEY WALK INTO THE HOUSE
3 WIL: Just sit down anyplace. Have to get the dirt off my
4 shoes. Marta would be very angry if I tracked dirt
5 around.
6 JOE: Marta....that's your daughter, isn't it?
7 WIL: Yes. She comes over every couple of days and
8 straightens up the house for me. Wonderful girl Marta.
9 I don't know what I'd do without her.
10 JOE: Yes sir. Couple of things we'd like to ask you.
11 WIL: Certainly, anything I can do to help.
12 JOE: Like to go over the information on the report here.
13 WIL: Is that from the last time....the time with the wine?
14 JOE: Yes sir.
15 WIL: Alright. You just ask anything you want. I've got
16 nothing to ~~hide~~. 10/30
17 JOE: Alright sir. Would you look over the report first to
18 see if there are any changes?
19 SOUND: JOE HANDS WIL THE PAPER
20 WIL: (READS) No...that's the same. Uh huh....Yes. Oh
21 here's one thing.
22 JOE: What's that sir?
23 WIL: This part here...about me running the business.
24 JOE: Yes sir.
25 WIL: That's changed. I still run it in a way. I still
26 supervise it but Robert...he actually runs it.
27 FRANK: Robert? That'd be Robert Davis?

1 WIL: Yes...he's my son in law. Marta's husband. He takes
2 care of the business now. He's a good boy. Marta's
3 lucky to have him. 11/00

4 FRANK: How long has your son-in-law been running the business
5 Mr. Uhlrich?

6 WIL: Let me see...it's been about 8....9 months. He took
7 over right after I got out of the hospital. He's done
8 wonders with it. Wonders.

9 JOE: How's that, sir?

10 WIL: Modernized it. Changed it all around. Had one of those
11 efficiency experts come in and study the people. Time
12 and Motion men I think they call them. They come in
13 with a stop watch and look at the people doing the
14 work and figure out how long it should take them to do
15 a certain job and then they plan how the job can be
16 done faster and cheaper. Wonderful thing. Big
17 changes. 11/30

18 JOE: Uh huh. I hope you won't take offence Mr, Uhlrich,
19 but how are the relations between you and your son-in-
20 law?

21 WIL: I don't think I understand?

22 JOE: How do you get along? Do you have any quarrels?
23 Any disagreements?

24 WIL: Oh no. Robert and I never disagree. I found out that
25 it didn't pay to argue with him.

26 JOE: Sir?

27 WIL: I found out that it didn't pay. He was always right.

28 JOE: Oh.

1 WIL: Yes...you see, we had a few arguments when he took
2 over the business. About this time and motion study
3 thing.
4 JOE: Would you tell us about these arguments, Sir?
5 WIL: They weren't anything serious. I didn't think that it
6 was a good idea to change. I couldn't see any reason
7 for it. Everything was going good. The business was
8 making money. Everybody seemed to be happy. I didn't
9 want to take a chance disturbing a good thing. You
10 know, the Golden Goose.
11 JOE: Yes sir....go ahead.
12 WIL: Well, Robert said that we were behind the times. That
13 if we didn't do something about it, we wouldn't be able
14 to compete with the other people. We manufacture
15 women's dresses, you know.
16 JOE: Yes sir, I saw that on the report.
17 WIL: Not a very big factory. Little place. I didn't want
18 to compete. I made a few dresses...sold them and
19 everything was fine. But Robert had ideas. He looked
20 into the future and he saw things that I couldn't. So
21 he said that we had to compete and we couldn't do it
22 the way we operated. He wanted to change things.
23 FRANK: And that's what you argued about?

1 WIL: ~~Not argued. We discussed it. Maybe it got a little~~
2 ~~loud but nothing~~ serious. Believe me, I finally told
3 him to go ahead. I thought that he'd fail. He didn't.
4 Now we compete. More dresses. More money. The
5 employees are happy. They have music...coffee-times...
6 they like it. But it's all changed. I don't go down
7 there anymore. I don't care much for it. It's changed.
8 So I just stay home and work in the garden. It's *13*
9 Robert's factory now.

10 JOE: You and Robert haven't had any other disagreements?

11 WIL: Oh no. Robert knows that when I die he'll get the
12 factory. He know's that all of my property will go
13 to him and to Marta. He knows. He's a good boy.
14 I'm lucky to have him.

15 FRANK: How 'bout your competitors Mr. Uhlrich. How do they
16 feel about this change in the way you operate your
17 business. They resent it?

18 WIL: Oh no. I haven't really got any competitors. The big
19 manufacturers don't care. I don't make enough dresses
20 to bother them and the other little men are in the same
21 boat with me. They're too busy running their factories
22 to worry about me. *13100*

23 SOUND: IN THE B.G. WE HEAR THE DISTANT RUMBLE OF THUNDER

24 JOE: Can you think of anyone who might want to do a thing
25 like this? The phone call?

26 WIL: I told you before I can't. I find it very hard to
27 believe.

1 JOE: Well, we have to talk to your son-in-law. Some of the
2 other people around. We'd appreciate if if you didn't
3 tell them what we were after.
4 WIL: But I'm not ashamed of it. I think you're wrong.
5 SOUND: THUNDER
6 WIL: Looks like it's going to rain. Be good for the flowers.
7 It's been dry up in the valley. Farmers need the rain.
8 JOE: Yes sir. You'll go along with us then and not say
9 anything about this to anybody.
10 WIL: Sure. I'll help. Robert is going to get a big laugh
11 out of it. He'll think it's funny you wasting your time
12 like this.
13 JOE: Be better if you didn't say anything to him or your
14 daughter. Not to anyone.
15 WIL: But not Robert. He isn't involved in this. I know it.
16 FRANK: All the same Mr. Uhlrich, Might be better if you didn't
17 tell Robert or your daughter either.
18 WIL: But they're going to see you here. They're going to ask
19 questions. They're not stupid.
20 JOE: Yes sir. You could tell them that we're asking about
21 someone you employ.
22 WIL: What do I say if Robert asks who? 13140
23 JOE: Tell 'em we asked you not to talk about it tell them.
24 it's police business.
25 WIL: I suppose I could do that. But I don't like it. I don't
26 like it all. It's lying.

1 JOE: Yes sir, that may be true. But it's the best way.
2 WIL: I guess it's a small lie. I can tell myself that. It's
3 a small lie.
4 FRANK: We'll have some policeman come out and watch you Mr.
5 Uhlrich. Until we find the person who's doing this. 14/00
6 WIL: Do you have to do that?
7 JOE: I'm afraid so.
8 WIL: Well, now, I don't like that at all. Even worse than
9 the lying. No I don't like it at all.
10 JOE: It's for your protection sir.
11 WIL: But if what you say is true. If somebody really does
12 want to kill me..If someone hates me that much, it's a
13 big question Mr. Friday.
14 JOE: What's that Mr. Uhlrich?
15 WIL: Can you stop them?
16 END SCENE 4

NARRATIONS
THE BIG JOKE
MAY 10, 1953

(REVISED) -19-

14/30

JOE:

We called the office and had a team of men sent out to keep Wilhelm Uhlrich under surveillance. His house and his person were to be watched 24 hours a day until we apprehended the person or persons who wanted him killed. We spent the rest of the afternoon talking to the people in the neighborhood, From all of them we got the same story. Uhlrich was liked and respected through the area. All of the local shop-keepers, and their business associates told us that he paid cash for everything he bought and that his credit was high. He was active in the local flower club and had twice in the past served as president of the organization. The neighbors confirmed what Uhlrich had told us about his family. His son-in-law and his daughter seemed to be devoted to the elderly man and were constantly trying to get him to sell the house he lived in and come to live with them. 6:42 P.M. we returned to the office.

15/00

1 JOE: We called the office and had a team of men sent out to
 2 keep Wilhelm Uhlrich under surveillance. His house and
 3 his person was to be watched 24 hours a day until we
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 13 told us about his son-in-law and his daughter. The
 14 couple seemed to be devoted to the elderly man and were
 15 constantly trying to get him to sell the house he lived
 16 in and come to live with them. 6:42 P.M. we returned
 17 to the office.

18 SOUND: DOOR OPEN AND SQUADROOM B.G. IN. JOE AND FRANK COME IN.
 19 DOOR CLOSE BEHIND THEM.

20 FRANK: Really comin down.
 21 JOE: Yeah. Well, it's good for the farmers.
 22 FRANK: You got a raincoat in your locker?
 23 JOE: Yeah. One of those plastic kind in the bag.
 24 FRANK: I'll get mine and we can go over and check the son-in-
 25 law. You got his address?
 26 JOE: Yeah....place out on Ivar.
 27 FRANK: Sure a nice old man.

5/30

DRAGNET RADIO
5/10/53
SECOND COMMERCIAL

FENN: ~~Chesterfield~~ is best for you. Listen to Chesterfield's record...

GIBNEY: For a full year and two months - a doctor has been making regular examinations of a group of Chesterfield smokers... and he reports no adverse effects to the nose, throat and sinuses from smoking Chesterfields.

FENN: Don't you want to try a cigarette with a record like this? Chesterfield - first with premium quality in both regular and ~~king~~-size. Chesterfield - first choice with young America and that's from a survey of 274 colleges and universities. Try Chesterfields - today. Remember - Chesterfield is America's best cigarette buy.

1 JOE: Uh huh.
2 SOUND: PHONE RING OFF.
3 JOE: You wanna grab my coat. I'll get the phone.
4 FRANK: Yeah.
5 SOUND: FRANK WALKS OFF TO LOCKERS AND WE HEAR JOE TAKE A
6 COUPLE OF STEPS AND PUNCH BUTTON ON PHONE, PICKUP. UNDER
7 JOE'S SPEECH, WE HEAR FRANK OPENING LOCKERS.
8 JOE: (INTO PHONE) Homicide, Friday. Yeah...Uh huh. Yeah
9 Johnnie. When? Yeah. We'll be right over. Right.
10 SOUND: (PHONE HANG UP)
11 JOE: (UP) Frank?
12 FRANK: Yeah.
13 JOE: Call from the bartender. Johnnie.
14 FRANK: Yeah.
15 JOE: Says he just got another phone call. Person told him
16 that'd he gotten the down payment for the job and wanted
17 to know why Uhlrich hadn't been killed.
18 FRANK: Yeah.
19 JOE: Guy said if Johnnie didn't get on it, the money wouldn't
20 do him any good. Told him to make up his mind.
21 FRANK: Yeah.
22 JOE: Either he makes good on the job or they'll kill him. *12/10*
23 END SCENE 5
24 END ACT I

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

16/17
17/00

NARRATIONS
THE BIG JOKE
MAY 10, 1953

(REVISED) -21-

JOE: 7:10 P.M. We got to the bar on 6th Street. There were only a couple of people in the place. The bar bartender, Johnnie, told us of the phone call he'd received. He said that the person on the phone had told him that if he didn't hurry up and kill Uhlrich, Johnnie himself would be taken care of. We called Lee Jones at the Crime Lab to ask him if he'd been able to come up with anything on the letter. He told us that there was no way of tracing it. Fingerprints found on the letter were those of the bartender. Photographs were taken of the letter and it, along with the money, was booked for further evidence. We'd gotten in touch with the postal authorities and they said they'd give us all the assistance needed. They gave us the location of the box where the letter had been mailed and said they'd try to find out who'd sent it. We arranged for a stakeout on the bar and then called the men at Uhlrich's home. They told us that the son-in-law, Davis, and Uhlrich's daughter had been there but that no one else had seen or spoken to the elderly man. 9:32 P.M. Frank and I drove out to check on Robert Davis. We got to his apartment and rang the bell to the manager's apartment.

17/3

18/60

1 GERT: Yes?

2 JOE: Miss Franklin?

3 GERT: Yes. What is it?

4 JOE: Police officers ma'am. Like to talk to you if we could.

5 GERT: Oh..well, I suppose it's alright. C'mon in.

6 JOE AND FRANK SAY THANK YOU.

7 SOUND: THEY WALK INTO THE APARTMENT. (GERT CLOSSES THE DOOR BEHIND
8 THEM.

9 JOE: This is my partner Frank Smith. I'm Joe Friday.

10 GERT: What is it you want to see me about?

11 FRANK: It's about one of your tenants.

12 GERT: Oh? Which one...I'll bet I can guess.

13 JOE: Ma'am?

14 GERT: It's about that couple on the 5th floor isn't it? The
15 Radcliffs. It's them isn't it?

16 JOE: No ma'am. Like to talk to you about Robert Davis and his
17 wife. 15130

18 GERT: The Davis'? ~~Never~~ have thought it. Should be the Radcliffs.
19 Way they carry on. The Davis' (TSK TSK TSK) Never have
20 thought it. What do you want to know about 'em?

21 JOE: How long have they lived here?

22 GERT: Let's see now. Been almost 6 years they been in the building.
23 Yeah..6 years anyway. Haven't always lived in the same
24 apartment though.

25 JOE: Ma'am?

26 GERT: When they moved in they was in a little apartment on the
27 second floor. Living room...pull down bed...little bitty
28 place. They moved up to the 6th floor. Two bedroom. Nice
29 place. Nice people. The Davis' huh? ~~Never~~ have thought it. 17100

30 JOE: Do they have any close friends in the building?

1 GERT: Not Mr. Davis. He's kinda the quiet type, Never has much
2 to do with anybody. Keeps to himself.

3 FRANK: Uh huh.

4 GERT: Now Mrs. Davis...that's a different thing. She's a living
5 doll. Nice to everybody. So sweet. Never had a harsh word
6 for anybody. Always a smile. I think that Mr. Davis thinks
7 he's too good for anybody. Always seemed kinda snooty.

8 JOE: He ever had any arguments with anybody in the building that
9 you know of?

10 GERT: Off and on. He's gotten in trouble with almost everybody in
11 the building. Mean man. No good.

12 FRANK: Why do you say that?

13 GERT: He just is. Like I said before...he thinks he's too good
14 for anybody. Thinks he's better than any body. He's got no
15 right to either.

16 JOE: Ma'am?

17 GERT: He owes half the people in the neighborhood money. Way
18 behind in his bills. Never seems to be able to pay anybody
19 he owes. I've talked to the milk man. Owes him for a month
20 back. Every time he askes for his money, Davis tells him to
21 come back and stop hounding him.

22 JOE: It was our understanding that he had a pretty good job.

19/40

1 GERT: And he has. Works for his father in law. Manages some kind
2 of a factory. Dresses I think. But that isn't it. He makes ^{20/1}
3 enough money. Just spends it faster than he makes it that's
4 all. I think he gambles.

5 JOE: Why do you say that ma'am?

6 GERT: He's always goin off on some kind of business trip. Least
7 that's what he says it is. But I know different.

8 JOE: How's that ma'am?

9 GERT: He came back from one of those business trips once. Cab ^{20/3}
10 pulled up and it just happened that I was standing out in
11 the front. Driver got out and gave him the bill for the Cab.
12 All the way from the airport. Almost 6 dollars. Anyway,
13 when Mr. Davis got the money out of his pocket to pay the
14 Cab bill, a chip fell on the sidewalk. He didn't think that
15 I saw it. But I did. Cab driver did too.

16 FRANK: What kind of a chip was it ma'am?

17 GERT: Well, you understand, I'm not a gamblin' woman. So I wouldn't
18 know. But the cab driver...he knew...You just bet you. ^{21/00}
19 He knew right away. He picked up the chip and handed it back
20 to Mr. Davis. Said something about being in Las Vegas.
21 Kinda kidding. Y'know?

22 JOE: Yes ma'am.

23 GERT: Well, I've seen Mr. Adams get upset. But never like that.
24 He grabbed the chip away from the cab driver and told him
25 to mind his own business. Said that he'd had the chip a
26 long time. That it didn't concern the cab driver. Real mean.

1 JOE: Uh huh.

2 GERT: And then at night. Well, the argument that he and the Mrs
3 had. I never in all my days heard anything like that.

4 JOE: What happened ma'am? 21/30

5 GERT: Well, You understand that I just happened to be in the
6 hall. I was making sure that the lights on the floor were
7 all on. Those bulbs are always burning out. I was
8 checkin' them Y'know?

9 JOE: Yes ma'am.

10 GERT: Well, anyways, I hear this argument comin' from the Adam's
11 apartment. Mrs. Adams is telling how she isn't going to
12 stand for it any more. Mr. Adams better settle down and
13 get to work and stop this foolishness. She didn't come
14 right out and say what foolishness...but I could tell.
15 I could tell. It was his gambling. That's what it was.

16 JOE: Yes ma'am. Is there anything else that you think you 22/00
17 could tell us about the Adams'?

18 GERT: No...I don't think so. I'm kinda surprised though. I
19 don't like him but I never thought that he'd have the
20 police after him.

21 JOE: We're just conducting a routine investigation, Mrs.
22 Richardson.

23 GERT: You don't have to play cagey with me. I know about you
24 policemen. You and your routine investigations. You
25 ain't foolin me. You want him for something. What is it.
26 Can you tell me?

27 JOE: It's police business ma'am. Just routine. We'd
28 appreciate it if you didn't say anything to anybody about
29 us being here.

22/30

1 GERT: Sure...I'll go along with you. I won't tell a soul.
2 Not a living soul.
3 JOE: Thank you Mrs. Richardson. Here's our card. We'd
4 appreciate it if you gave us a call if anything came up.
5 GERT: (LOOKING AT THE CARD) Uh huh. Michigan 5 2 1 1. That
6 right?
7 JOE: Yes ma'am. Ask for the Homicide Division.
8 GERT: Alright...you just bet I will. Glad to help glad to.
9 One thing though?
10 JOE: Yes ma'am?
11 GERT: You sure there ain't nothin' that you want those people
12 on the 5th floor for, the Radcliffs?
13 JOE: No ma'am. We haven't had any complaints on them.
14 GERT: Can't understand it. Thought sure that you'd want them.
15 The Davis'... just can't believe it.
16 JOE: Well...thank you ma'am.
17 GERT: (NOT HEARING) The Davis'...not the Radcliffs...(TSK TSK
18 TSK) Just can't understand it. You sure you're not
19 making a mistake?

END SCENE 6

NARRATIONS
THE BIG JOKE
MAY 10, 1953

23/100
(REVISED) -27-

JOE: From the manager's office, we called the Uhlrich home. We talked to Mr. Uhlrich. He told us about the visit that afternoon from the Davis'. He said that he hadn't told Robert Davis anything about the threats on his life. We went upstairs and talked to Davis. We told him we had a serious matter to discuss with him and asked him to accompany us to the City Hall.

1 JOE: From the manager's office we called the Uhlrich' home. We
2 talked to mister Uhlrich. He told us about the visit
3 that afternoon from the Davis'. He told us that He hadn't
4 told Robert Davis anything about the threats on his life.
5 We went upstairs and talked to Davis. He was un
6 cooperative in his answers and at 11:30 P.M. we took him
7 down to the city hall.

8 SOUND: JOE ROBERT AND FRANK'S STEPS IN THE CORRIDOR. SLIGHT ECHO
9 ON SOUND.

10 ROBT: I don't know what you guys are tryin' to prove treatin' a
11 taxpayer like this. I got friends y'know.

12 JOE: If you haven't done anything wrong you got nothin' to
13 worry about.

14 ROBT: I haven't done anything wrong. I just don't like to be
15 shoved around that's all.

16 FRANK: Anybody shoved you around?

17 ROBT: No. not yet but I know that you're goin' to start.

18 JOE: Yeah...sure.

19 SOUND: STEPS STOP

20 JOE: In here.

21 SOUND: JOE TAKES A STEP AND OPENS THE DOOR TO THE INTERROGATION
22 ROOM

23 FRANK: (TO BOB) Go ahead.

24 SOUND: BOB WALKS INTO THE ROOM JOE AND FRANK FOLLOW..JOE CLOSES
25 THE DOOR.

26 ROBT: Alright, you guys have played it cozy enough. Now tell me
27 what this is all about.

23/42

1 JOE: Frank?

2 FRANK: Yeah?

3 JOE: You wanna check the office and see if we've gotten any
4 answers to the calls this afternoon?

5 FRANK: Right.

6 SOUND: FRANK LEAVES THE ROOM. B.G. IN AS THE DOOR OPENS AND
7 CLOSES

8 ROBT: You gotta cigarette?

9 JOE: Yeah...here y'go.

10 SOUND: HE THROWS THE PACK ON THE TABLE. ROBT PICKS IT UP AND
11 LIGHTS A CIGARETTE.

12 ROBT: Let's get to it huh? I'd like to get home tonight.

13 JOE: How do you get along with your father-in-law?

14 ROBT: I don't see where that's any of your business. Why ask?

15 JOE: Like to know.

16 ROBT: I don't see how that concerns you. But you ask so I'll
17 tell you. We get along fine, me and the old man. We
18 get along just great. That make you happy?

19 JOE: That's not the point.

20 SOUND: FRANK COMES BACK INTO THE INTERROGATION ROOM.

21 JOE: (TO FRANK) Anything?

22 FRANK: Yeah...they called in about half an hour ago. Here's the
23 message.

24 SOUND: FRANK GIVES JOE PIECE OF PAPER. JOE TAKES IT AND READS IT.

25 JOE: You go over to Las Vegas much, Davis?

26 ROBT: Not much....why?

27 JOE: How often would you say you went over there?

24/05

1 ROBT: Maybe couple times a year. Not any more than that.
2 JOE: When was the last time you were over there?
3 ROBT: What's so important about when I was in Vegas last.
4 You guys spend a little more time finding out who's
5 tryin' to kill my father in law and less time askin'
6 questions that don't make any sense you'd be doin' ²⁴¹³⁰
7 a better job.
8 JOE: Oh you hear about somebody trying to kill your father
9 in-law huh?
10 ROBT: Yeah. He told me about it this afternoon.
11 JOE: He tell you how we found out about it?
12 ROBT: Yeah....said something about a bartender. Something
13 about a phone call.
14 FRANK: He tell you who the bartender was?
15 ROBT: No....just that it was someplace over on Sixth.
16 JOE: Alright Davis.....Come off it.
17 ROBT: What do you mean....come off it?
18 JOE: You wanna tell us why you did it or do you want us to
19 tell you?
20 ROBT: Did what? I got nothin' to tell you. I don't know what
21 you guys are talkin' about.
22 JOE: We talked to your father in law this morning. We told
23 him that we'd gotten a report that his life had been ²⁵¹⁰⁰
24 threatened. We didn't tell him how it happened. We
25 didn't tell him where our information came from. He
26 didn't know.
27 ROBT: Alright....so maybe I got it someplace else.
28 FRANK: You couldn't have. We didn't talk to anybody else.
29

1 ROBT: I heard it someplace.....I don't remember...But I
2 heard it:
3 JOE: We got a call from the Las Vegas Police department.
4 We put in a call to them earlier. We wanted to know if
5 they knew you over there.
6 ROBT: Yeah.
7 JOE: They checked around. Found that you go over there
8 regularly. You're a pretty steady loser. That you
9 owe a lotta money in town.
10 ROBT: That's right?
11 JOE: Yeah it's right. I think we can make you for the threat
12 on Uhlrich's life. I don't think we'll have any
13 trouble at all. You had the motive. You had the
14 opportunity. First thing in the morning, we check
15 at the factory. See if you made a withdrawal of five
16 hundred dollars.. We make that and you got big trouble.
17 ROBT: You figure you're gonna be able to do ~~that~~? 25/30
18 JOE: We think so yeah. We'll get your father in law down
19 here and ask him what he told you this afternoon. Find
20 out if he did tell you about the bartender...about the
21 bar on sixth...about the phone call. It doesn't look
22 like there's gonna be too much trouble makin' you for it.
23 BEAT:
24 ROBT: Save your time.
25 FRANK: What?

1 ROBT: You don't have to go through that thrash. I did it.
2 I tried to have the old man knocked off.
3 JOE: Were you the one who sent him the wine last year?
4 ROBT: Yeah. That's when it started. I started to gamble.
5 Lost a lot of money. Couldn't pay it back. No way to
6 pay it back. Guys I owed the money to were leanin on
7 me. I had to get the money to them. I had to.
8 JOE: Yeah. 26/100
9 ROBT: I could only think of one way. Get rid of the old man.
10 FRANK: Didn't you get a pretty good salary out of workin'
11 for him?
12 ROBT: Yeah...pretty good but it didn't go far...not far enough.
13 I tried to win it back. Make good on the losses I had.
14 I couldn't do it. More I gambled the worse it got.
15 I just couldn't do it. Wasn't any other way. No other
16 way. I decided to kill the ole man. It was the only
17 way. Can't you see that...the only way I could get clear.
18 JOE: Yeah.
19 ROBT: I figured that if I could get rid of the old man...I'd
20 have everything fixed. Everything would be okay. Don't
21 you see?
22 JOE: You got big trouble now Davis.
23 ROBT: Yeah?
24 JOE: It could have been worse. 26/30
25 MUSIC: SIG

CLOSING COMMERCIAL
DRAGNET RADIO

2/11

FENNEMAN: And now here is our star, Jack Webb.

WEBB: ~~Thank~~ you, George Fenneman. I want to thank you all for your interest in Dragnet. Thanks for your letters...we really appreciate 'em. We'll try to keep right on giving you the kind of show you like. I want to thank all of you, too, who have switched to Chesterfields. I know you're gonna like 'em... and I know you'll find they're best for you. You folks who haven't tried Chesterfields...I'd like you to pick up a carton tomorrow. Chesterfield...it's a great smoke.

1 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard was true. The
2 names were changed to protect the innocent.
3 GIBNEY: On June 18th, trial was held in Department 89, Superior
4 court of the State of California, in and for the county
5 of Los Angeles. In a moment, the results of that trial.

Handwritten:
SVP
+ ~~Handwritten~~ 6st

"THE BIG JOKE"

TRIAL PAGE

GIBNEY: Robert Walter Davis was tried and convicted of attempted homicide. He received sentence as prescribed by law. Attempted Homicide is punishable by imprisonment in the state Penitentiary for a period of not less than twenty years.

END PAGE

1 MUSIC: THEME:

2 THEME: UNDER:

3 GIBNEY: You have just heard Dragnet -- a series of authentic cases
4 from official files. Technical advice comes from the
5 office of Chief of Police, W. H. Parker, Los Angeles *28/100*
6 Police Department. Technical advisors; Captain Jack
7 Donohoe, Sgt. Marty Wynn, Sgt. Vance Brasher. Heard
8 tonight were Ben Alexander _____
9 _____

10 Script by John Robinson. Music by Walter Schumann. Hal
11 Gibney speaking.

12 MUSIC: THEME UNDER.....(CONTINUES)

13 FENN: For a million laughs, tune in Chesterfields "Martin and
14 Lewis Show" Tuesday on this same N.B.C. Station, and
15 Sound off for Chesterfields. Either regular or king size,
16 you will find premium quality Chesterfields much milder. *29/100*
17 Chesterfield is best for you.

18 GIBNEY: Chesterfield has brought you "Dragnet", transcribed
19 from Los Angeles.

*28/100
Tulins
29/100*

DRAGNET
4-26-53

2850

FATIMA HITCH-HIKE

- 1 GALLUP: ~~Now~~, new Fatima has the tip for your lips.
- 2 Fatima tips of perfect cork.
- 3 King size for natural filtering.
- 4 Fatima quality for a much better flavor and aroma.
- 5 So remember -- new Fatima has the tip for your lips.
- 6 Fatima. See how smooth they are.
- 7 GIBNEY: Remember, Fatima is made by the makers of Chesterfield -
- 8 Liggett and Myers -- one of tobacco's MOST RESPECTED ~~names~~.
- 10 ORCH: CLOSING THEME UP TO END

29/10