

TWELVE TRADITIONS PLAY

There is no set script or cast for this play. Like everything else in A.A., it is very “loosely” organized. Ideally, there should be seven (7) players: this version is set up for six (6) players and a NARRATOR or theme setter, who opens and closes the play.

CAST

NARRATOR: Opens and closes the play; can double as EAGER BEAVER if seven (7) people do the play.

FOUNDER-(OLD TIMER): A die-hard type; positive he is right and everyone else should do it his way. He was the first local member, after that, he “drank only on weekends”, finally got real sick, got sober, and “founded” the Middletown Group, and he makes all the rules. (Has been sober about 5 years)

MONEYBAGS-(Can be man or woman) This is the “Chairman” type, who backs up the FOUNDER in everything. They are very friendly. The FOUNDER is in awe of MONEYBAGS’ dough and finds it useful.

MONEYBAGS is jealous of FOUNDER’S prestige, and would like to run the Group himself. (Has been sober about 3 years)

EAGER BEAVER: (Girl) Is greatly in awe of FOUNDER who, in turn, squelches her every time she opens her mouth. However, she went to a meeting in another area while on vacation, and has more than an inkling that all Groups are not run like Middletown. (Has been sober about 2 years)

POLITICIAN: This is a know-it-all, cigar smoking type who disagrees with both, FOUNDER and MONEYBAGS, and ridicules them consistently. He is a “fixer”, publicity hound, gambler, and a ladies’ man. He regularly “objects” to all suggestions and wants to “throw the FOUNDER out”, and take over. (Has been sober less than 1 year)

DELEGATE: Is driving back to Indiana from General Service Conference, and stopped over to attend the Middletown meeting. (He got the address from the World A.A. Directory). He “happens” to have Traditions pamphlet in his pocket, to which he refers as the play goes along.

NEWCOMER: Has been referred to the Group by a judge and is still pretty shaky and confused.

*NOTE: In the following pages, the general action is described and the dialogue is similar to that used when the play has been given elsewhere. Ad Lib changes can be made anywhere; but, the points the play brings out, are key to specific Traditions, and are the ones that should be EMPHASIZED!

MONEYBAGS is sitting in a large chair at the center of table.... The chair “belongs” to FOUNDER who hasn’t arrived yet, On his left is an empty chair, and in next left is EAGER BEAVER.

NARRATOR: Good evening, friends. Tonight, we are presenting the local version of the TWELVE TRADITIONS PLAY. Our play tells the story of the Middletown, U.S.A. Group.”
“About five years old, the group, at first, had a very rapid growth and, at one time, had about 150 members. For the past two years, however, it has been steadily falling off and there are only about eight or ten members left. The play opens with a special business meeting -called in an attempt to remedy this situation.”

Most groups, new or old, from time to time, have had problems similar to Middletown’s. They have suffered from “promoters”, “bleeding deacons”, “Little Red Riding Hoods”, “he-ing and she-ing triangles”, politicians, and so forth. However, since A.A. began we have never been divided by a major controversial issue! When the chips are down, the Group Conscience takes over! Now, the play.....

MONEYBAGS: You know, EAGER BEAVER, I was sure surprised when FOUNDER agreed to this meeting tonight. I didn’t think he’d ever go for it at all!!

EAGER BEAVER: Well, he didn’t guess we planned to get here early. You know POLITICIAN is supposed to meet us here so we can try to get something worked out before FOUNDER arrives.

MONEYBAGS: I hope he gets here before FOUNDER, so maybe we can cook up something to knock him off his throne, or at least rock it a little

EAGER BEAVER: Well, you know what the trouble is...,he’s just a dictator and he doesn’t want anyone else to do anything! Now, when I was on my vacation and went to that meeting in Bigtown, I heard them talking about elections and rotating leaders and the group paying it’s own way, and a lot of stuff like that; but all FOUNDER does is hold on like grim death! He just won’t let anybody do anything!!

MONEYBAGS: Well, maybe it is all right, After all, he IS the FOUNDER, and he does know all about A. A. I never heard of any of this stuff you bumped into over there, but I sure know our Group has gone to pot!

EAGER BEAVER: I certainly hope, when POLITICIAN gets here, we can think of something.

MONEYBAGS: We have to do something! If he should die, I’d have to take over and I need to establish my authority ahead of time! (Pompously) I’m next in seniority, you know.

EAGER BEAVER: I don’t care so much about that...I just don’t like the way he does things! It just doesn’t seem right. Here’s POLITICIAN now! Hi, POLITICIAN!!

POLITICIAN: (Enters and sits in chair to right of MONEYBAGS)

MONEYBAGS: Hiya, POLITICIAN!! We’re just talking the situation over. Listen to li’l EAGER BEAVER!

EAGER BEAVER: We’ve just been talking about FOUNDER, and the way he holds on to everything with an iron hand. I was just talking about when I went on my vacation and went to that meeting in Bigtown. They don’t do it the way we do here at all, and you know that, too, MONEYBAGS!!

MONEYBAGS: Well, all I know is what you told me. But, you had started to say something about some kind of elections. What was that all about?

EAGER BEAVER: The Groups there elect different leaders and they have group secretaries and committees, and they invite groups from other places to put on meetings, and all kinds of things! They have dances, and everything. Stuff we never even heard of around here!

MONEYBAGS: (To POLITICIAN): “Well, look POLITICIAN, I’m only the financial brains around here. You’re the Politician! What do you think about elections, and how could we hold one? How would we do it?”

POLITICIAN: HAH!! You and your money ought to be able to figure that one out! The question is, how’re you going to handle FOUNDER?

MONEYBAGS: Don’t worry about that. I’ll handle him! You tell me how to handle an election and we’ll get something done!

EAGER BEAVER: Yes, we should start by having an election. But who’s going to tell him? I’d be scared to! He might throw me out of A.A.!

MONEYBAGS: Well, I’m not afraid of him! In fact, I’ll tell him!

EAGER BEAVER: You’ve got your opportunity, ’cause here’s ole Napoleon, now!!

FOUNDER: What’s going on here! I can’t be late, so you must have been early. Weren’t talking about Papa, I hope. (genially stands behind \$bags for a moment) What’s the idea! Move over! Who said you could sit in MY chair?

MONEYBAGS: I PAID for it! Don’t see why I can’t sit in it once in a while when you’re not here! (moves to FOUNDERS left)

FOUNDER: (makes a production of getting into center chair) It’s MY chair! After all, I am the FOUNDER, and I get to have the biggest chair! Hell! Let’s get going. We have to get these people back to the meeting again, real quick!

POLITICIAN: (Sarcastically) Why don’t you and MONEYBAGS pay ‘em to come?

FOUNDER: Stop interrupting! I’ve got a lot of plans. I know what they need. And everything’s all lined up. We’re going to have a TV program with O’BRIEN—Sheriff O’Brien that is. And I’m going to be interviewed about all the good we’ve done people! (A-hem!) I’ll tell ‘em how we’re going to get O’Brien’s backing, and I’ll mention some of the outstanding big-shots in town who have been to our past meetings; like Banker Jones and the Mayor’s Cousin! And, I’m making a deal with Judge Jay to sit on the beach with him. We can comb over the likely looking ones and then, I’ll screen ‘em. If they look like the kind I want, I’ll accept their applications for A.A., and the Judge can sentence them to attend.

EAGER BEAVER: Isn't anyone supposed to be in A.A. if they want to?

FOUNDER: Now, little girl, leave it to me! You're too new to know about these things! I've been sober five years and I know what's best, and the rest of you have to be loyal to me.... After all, I started.....just a minute!

DELEGATE: (Enters)

FOUNDER: Who are you, and what do you want?

DELEGATE: I'm _____ and I'm an alcoholic, and a member of A.A. from _____. I happen to be the present delegate to General Service and I'm driving back home from the Conference. I looked in the World Directory and found your group listed, so I thought I'd visit you.

EAGER BEAVER: (To MONEYBAGS) He sounds like those people did in Bigtown! Remember what I told you? (To DELEGATE) What's a conference?

POLITICIAN: What's General Service?

MONEYBAGS: What World Directory?

FOUNDER: Awwwww, don't pay any mind to that stuff! It's a lot of rules and regulations they have back in New York. Wouldn't ever work in Middletown, and we don't need 'em, anyhow!

(To DELEGATE) We have a great little group here. Yep! I started it and old MONEYBAGS is my right hand man! I've been sober five years and I straightened him up about three years ago."

Li'l EAGER BEAVER here's been around a couple of years, but she's still pretty wet behind the ears.....always gettin' ideas about doing things different!"

My pal POLITICIAN is a new addition, but, hey, he sure knows how to get things done around City Hall! He's only been off the stuff about ten months. By the way, "Bub", how long did you say you've been in this outfit?

DELEGATE: Well, (Modestly) I've been sober nearly fifteen years now.....one day at a time.

FOUNDER: (Startled!!) FIFTEEN YEARS!!!

EAGER BEAVER: (Reverently) Fifteen years!

MONEYBAGS: Fifteen years????

POLITICIAN: (Sarcastically to FOUNDER) HAM!! Maybe you'd better move over, too, and give him YOUR Chair!!!

FOUNDER: (LOUDLY, to MONEYBAGS) Move over, you! I'm going to give MY chair to this Oldtimer!

MONEYBAGS: (To POLITICIAN) Move over, can't you? Politician moves one chair to right, Moneybags takes chair he vacated, Founder takes chair to left of center and installs Delegate in center chair with a flourish).

FOUNDER: Here you are, Oldtimer! Sit right down in MY chair right here in the center! Well, let's get the show on the road. You've heard some of my plans about getting these people back that have been staying away.

EAGER BEAVER: That's all he ever does...TALK about what he's going to do, but doesn't do it! And he won't let anyone else! He just holds on like grim death! He calls the group his garden!"

POLITICIAN: We need to weed HIM OUT!! He thinks just because he's the FOUNDER and has more sobriety, that none of our ideas are any good! I've got some good ideas on how to run this Group, but he's going to make us wait until he dies before I can put my plans into effect! Anyhow, if we had an election, I bet I'd win...been fixing those things for years around town, here.

MONEYBAGS: Now listen, you! Show more respect for him in front of this Oldtimer!

FOUNDER: That's right! What a way to talk! And in front of a stranger, too! After all I've done: pulling people off bar stools, giving all my time and efforts, and all those trips I made to Chicago to find out how to operate.

MONEYBAGS: Huh! He tells these stories about making all these trips to Chicago to find out how A.A. works, but that wasn't it at all! He was going up there, all right, but he was just playing footsies with the Program, and what's more, he just couldn't stay sober! So, he came back down here. And when he talks about pulling people off barstools, he's talking about me! If it hadn't been for me and MY money, he wouldn't have a thing! I got him a job, started him in business and all. And when he says he started this group, he didn't have any choice! He just couldn't stay sober in Chicago and couldn't stay sober here on his own.

EAGER BEAVER: (To DELEGATE) They just squabble all the time. They won't tell you what's wrong, but I will! All our members are staying away and some of them are getting drunk, 'cause FOUNDER won't let anyone but himself have a word to say about anything!

FOUNDER: Now, now, little girl. I've got everything under control and things are going to be different.

DELEGATE: Just how do you run your meetings?

POLITICIAN: Just for laughs, tell him!

FOUNDER: Well, I sort'a open the meeting by telling how I went to Chicago, and about what a tough time I had getting them all to come at first; then I tell 'em how I run my group and how I screen the new ones. Then MONEYBAGS tells them how much he's done for the town helping me run the group. Then some of the others talk and I wind up with a real strong pitch!

POLITICIAN: That IS a laugh! Let me tell you how he really does it! He gets up and spouts off about how he founded the group and has a right to run it his way. He keeps this up for about 25 minutes and then his buddy gets up and tells us what a great guy HE is and how much dough he puts out. Then, he lets his pal take over again and he explains what MONEYBAGS has been talking about; then “Old Father Time” tells us not to take a drink before the next meeting, tells us again what a good “Joe” he is, and then closes the meeting. Ask the others. They’ll tell you the same thing. (To FOUNDER) Hey!, and what about all that money you’ve been getting for the group from those rich friends of yours in town, and the charity drives, and all. Tell the man about that!

FOUNDER: Don’t worry about that. I’ve got it all in my head.

POLITICIAN: You got the figures in your head, but where’s the loot? You got that up there, too?

FOUNDER: NO, I mean YES. Oh, shut up! And listen to this Ohio delegate.

POLITICIAN: YOU listen! That’ll be a switch!

DELEGATE: I just happen to have this pamphlet in my pocket. It’s something we arrived at from the past experience of all of the groups. You really should have a copy here! The General Service Conference, which I have just been to, is the guardian of our Traditions, and is based on Unity, Service, and Recovery. Our 1st Tradition says our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity. The 2nd Tradition explains that there are no “bosses” in A. A. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. Nor should A. A., as such, ever be organized. It’s better to create committees directly responsible to the members.

EAGER BEAVER: What did I tell you! That’s what they said in Bigtown!

POLITICIAN: It’s just what I’VE been saying all along.

DELEGATE: By the way, how many groups do you have in Middletown?

MONEYBAGS: I can answer that one! Another bunch around here tried to start a group a while back, but the way it was shaping up, I figured I’d have to put a stop to that kind of nonsense! We couldn’t have TWO groups--they were getting as big as us. So I had the police raid the joint where they were meeting; but they must have paid someone off, because nothing happened and they kept on meeting. Some guy from Jersey had come here and thought he was pretty smart and didn’t want to do it our way. So, when they didn’t get closed up -couldn’t find anything wrong they said - I took matters into my own hands! I just bought the building, turned off the utilities, and put them out of business. After all, (LOUDLY) it was either we wipe them out or they wipe us out!

EAGER BEAVER: You thought you were pretty smart, but I’d like to see another group here. We could visit back and forth and exchange ideas and help each other. You and the Boss just don’t want any competition, that’s all!

DELEGATE: Our past experience proves that every group has a right to be self-governing, providing they don’t hurt some other group, or all of A. A. And no group should have a right to interfere with another as long as it is operating in accordance with the principles of A.A. (Tradition 4). The cover of our World-wide Directory clearly states that any two

or more people, gathered together for sobriety can call themselves an A.A. group, providing they are self-supporting and have no other affiliations.

FOUNDER: Well, I dunno. It sounded okay, and it might work in some other places, but it would never do here. These people depend on me, because they know I know the score.

POLITICIAN: (Aside to EAGER BEAVER) I almost didn't come tonight. That MONEYBAGS was pretty nasty about that poker debt, and I've been trying to borrow the money. After all, it is an A.A. poker debt, and I have to pay it!

DELEGATE: (Curiously) May I ask what A.A. poker is?

FOUNDER: Oh, just a little idea I dreamed up. We were getting sort of tired of just sitting around listening to each other every week and some of the wives were getting pretty jumpy about it, so I decided that one meeting a month, we'd let the wives cook up a potluck and then us boys would adjourn and have a poker game instead of a meeting...just a friendly little no-limit game.

POLITICIAN: Friendly?

EAGER BEAVER: Yes! And he even chases away new people who happen to show up if it's a poker night.

FOUNDER: We just tell 'em to come back next week. What's wrong with that?

DELEGATE: (Reads Trad. 5) Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Without new members, we would all die.

NEWCOMER: (Enters) Is this the A.A.A,A.??

FOUNDER: This is A.A., but right now, we're very busy in a meeting. Come back the day after tomorrow. That's our regular meeting night.

NEWCOMER: The judge told me you people in this place could help me.

EAGER BEAVER: (Looking sympathetically at NEWCOMER) We want to if we can.

POLITICIAN: Didn't you hear the man? We're too busy, now!

MONEYBAGS: (To FOUNDER) Hey, wait a minute! Let's show this Oldtimer how we screen new people with your system.

FOUNDER: (To DELEGATE) Watch this, now. You'll see how careful we are! At first, we had a lot of trouble with all kinds of people trying to get in. So, I set up a screening committee and made some rules. When the others didn't agree with me, I screened THEM OUT! I pass on all new applications and we just keep pure alkies.

POLITICIAN: Pure, WOW!!!

FOUNDER: And I personally pass on all new applicants.

NEWCOMER: (STILL STANDING) Are you sure this is the right place?

FOUNDER: (Producing long sheets of paper) I just happen to have one of our application forms with me. (To NEWCOMER)

F: What's your name?

NC: _____

F: What's your correct age?

NC: _____

F: What kind of work do you do?

NC: I'm not working now. I just got fired.....they said I was drinking on the job.

F: What's your religion?

NC: _____

(ALL, but DELEGATE, shake heads slowly)

F: Well..l.l...l, I don't know. We don't ever have much luck with these _____
What's your political affiliation?

NC: huh?

F: What's your political affil....oh, never mind! Who did you vote for in the last election?

NC: I always vote the straight probatto....I mean, Prohibition ticket.

POLITICIAN: What a bunch of crackpots!

FOUNDER: (continues questioning NEWCOMER) What's your formal education?

NC: I left school in the 8th grade; but, later I was a trustee.

F: What school could that be?

NC: Graybar Reformatory.

F: Tch! Tch! Tch! Were you ever in jail?

NC: Sure, I just got out.....that's why the Judge sent me over here.

F: Were you ever in on a morals offence?

NC: Only for drinkin' and they framed me! I only had two beers!

F: Been drinking today?

NC: Only two beers, so help me!

F: What's the matter with you? Can't you stay sober long enough to come down here?

NC: If I could stay sober, I'd never have come down here.

F: Here. I'll hand you one of our application forms. Go over there and sit down and fill it out. And keep quiet! We're busy.

NC: Can I ask a question?

FOUNDER: NO!!! Just go over there and sit down! You're here to be seen and not heard!

FOUNDER: (To DELEGATE) What do you think of that? It'll give you an idea of how careful we are in our screening. Why, -you could bring your wife or sister, or your maiden aunt here, and they'd never find any riff-raff around.

POLITICIAN: Har! Har! Har! Only those "pure" alcoholics he was talking about before!

FOUNDER: Right! I've screened out all the riff-raff, undesirables, man handlers, con men, troublemakers, and all "phoney balonies."

POLITICIAN: Hey! Tell him about the fallen women?

FOUNDER: What d'ya mean? I don't know what you're talking about? You're nuts!!

POLITICIAN: Oh yes, you do, too.....last winter when those gals.....

FOUNDER: (Sheepishly) Oh, that! That was nothing. HA! HA!

POLITICIAN: Well, go on.....,tell him!

FOUNDER: Oh, it wasn't anything! One night last winter, a couple of babes tried to come in here, but I'm pretty hep and I recognized the type right away! I knew something had to be done right off, so I just told them plainly they could not come in here and contaminate my group. So I escorted them to the door."

POLITICIAN: (LOUDLY) Ha! Ha! Ha! To the door and out the door, and we didn't see HIM again for three weeks! Ha! Ha!

FOUNDER: Now wait...it wasn't exactly like that...it was only two....(blustering) Dammit! Why don't you mind your own business?

POLITICIAN: Well, it certainly proved you knew your 13th Step! Ha! Ha!

NEWCOMER: (Raises his hand)

MONEYBAGS: Shut up, you!

DELEGATE: (Jumps....thinks MONEYBAGS is talking to him) How many do you think have been eliminated from this group through your screening method?

FOUNDER: Oh, I'd say we managed to get rid of a couple of hundred in the last year or so.

DELEGATE: I wonder where they are?

EAGER BEAVER: Well, I know of two of them that fled. They were both girls I went to school with.

DELEGATE: You know, in the early days of A.A., this screening problem came up and the members had to agree that even if a new prospect had problems other than alcohol, or would not accept GOD right away, or was controversial, it was best for A.A.—if they were alcoholics—to accept them. Many of these remained to become good A.A. members. That is why the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

FOUNDER: Maybe you're right. We could try it and if it didn't work, we could always go back to screening them.

DELEGATE: Another thing, is your group self-supporting?

MONEYBAGS: Self-supporting? What a joke! This gang wouldn't support anything. I support them! Nobody else will! I own this building so I let 'em have free rent. I own part of the cafe down the street, so I provide free refreshments. And my wife owns a furniture store and I gave them all the furniture. I get money for FOUNDER from a lot of my friends, and I always put a \$20 in the basket after the meeting.

POLITICIAN: It isn't those \$20's I mind, it's the way he waves them in the air before he finally puts them in the basket! I still think we should move into the back room at Shapiro's Furniture Store and pay him \$2 a night for it. And then we could all kick in the way EAGER BEAVER wants us to.

DELEGATE: You have a wonderful idea there! It's better for every A.A. group to be self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

MONEYBAGS: Declining money? And, what else? Oh, Brother!

POLITICIAN: Hey! Don't let such crazy' ideas louse up the deal I made with O'Brien to get him re-elected Sheriff, nor the deal with FOUNDER to go on TV with him. We need O'Brien! He's a big help to us. He gets the Judge to put 'em in for us, or take 'em out for us!

MONEYBAGS: Of all the dirty double-crosses I ever heard!! You told me the group would go along with my man Olsen to get him elected instead of O'Brien! And I promised him we would. Olsen's a coming man. He's going to be Governor some day and I've promised to finance his campaign.

POLITICIAN: Baloney! O'Brien's the best man, and I promised HIM the group would support him.

FOUNDER: Yes, I know O'Brien's a good guy, but if MONEYBAGS thinks he can put over Olsen, maybe we'd better reconsider.

POLITICIAN: That's a lousy trick!! I've already promised O'Brien, and don't forget, he also promised to set up the deal with old Doc to change the name of the hospital Doc has, to the A.A. Hospital, and to put us A.A.'s in charge!

MONEYBAGS: Olsen can do that just as well as O'Brien!

POLITICIAN: O'Brien's the one who can do us the most good!

MONEYBAGS: He isn't! Olsen's the one!"

FOUNDER: Well, we certainly need the hospital in A.A.'s name. I'm spending too much time and money running around to screen prospects. With a hospital, we could charge plenty and make some dough; and at the same time, Doc could get 'em sobered up for us. He can give them a lot of tranquilizers to calm them down, and then I can screen 'em.

EAGER BEAVER: What if they don't have any money for the hospital?

MONEYBAGS: I guess they'd just have to do without the hospital; but this hospital deal is a good one! All those things are tax-exempt if we put a free case in now and then. You know, ol' Doc's a drunk himself, and he knows how to handle 'em.

POLITICIAN: O'Brien's the one who can put it over!

MONEYBAGS: He is NOT!! Olsen's the one!

POLITICIAN: You want to go outside and make something of it? (Begins to rise)

FOUNDER: Now, now, you two. We have company, you know. BUT, if we do back Olsen and he gets to be Governor, then he can do a lot of things for us.

POLITICIAN: I always knew you were a rat!!

MONEYBAGS: You're a rat yourself! (Looking at POLITICIAN)

EAGER BEAVER: (To DELEGATE) Isn't this just terrible? (To FOUNDER and OTHERS) That's what's the matter with this group. All this politics and stuff! That's why the other group started, You wanted them to vote for your man and they didn't want to get into politics, but they had to on account of you, so they started another group.

POLITICIAN: O'Brien's the best man for A.A.

MONEYBAGS: Olsen's better!

FOUNDER: Maybe Olsen IS going to be Governor some day, h-m-m-m-m.

NEWCOMER: (Raises hand, again)

FOUNDER: Shut Up!!!

MONEYBAGS: Yeah, Shut up!

DELEGATE: Me? Oh. You know, everything you're talking about is covered in our TRADITIONS. For instance, Tradition 7 says "we should be self-supporting", and Tradition 10 warns us to stay out of politics and public controversy. A hundred fifty years ago, a society named the Washingtonians almost had an answer to alcoholism. Abraham Lincoln praised them and talked at their meetings; but they got involved in politics, in fighting against slavery, in making alcohol illegal, and so forth. They fought for so many causes, that they became divided among themselves and thus died. It's fine to be a

good citizen, but politics have no place in A, A., if we are to survive ourselves! And about this hospital. The early A.A.s tried that, too; and many other things! They were even going to scoop up the derelicts on Skid Row, start A.A. Farms run by A.A.'s, and finance it by the sale of A.A. books. We didn't sell enough books, fortunately, so the idea fell through. Later, we learned we shouldn't try to act like professionals, which we aren't, and we should never be paid for our 12th STEP work! Too, it is never advisable to lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise. . We should try to stick to our own business which is carrying the message to the alcoholic. Also, any group funds, collected from the members, should be used only for A.A. purposes, and should never be diverted to outside agencies. Other agencies do help the alcoholic, and while we cooperate with them, A.A. should never go as far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied.

NEWCOMER: (Raises hand)

FOUNDER, MONEYBAGS, POLITICIAN: (Together) Oh, Shut up!!

MONEYBAGS: At least we can go through with our TV show! (To DELEGATE) I own half the T.V. station and I promised Olsen to put the group on with him. That way, we can get in a plug for Olsen and get recruits for the group at the same time!

POLITICIAN: I want equal time for O'Brien!

EAGER BEAVER: Is that being anonymous? Supposing someone who did want to join and needs help saw the show and got scared off because they thought they'd have to go on TV, if they joined A.A.

FOUNDER: You'll understand these things better when you've been around as long as I have.

MONEYBAGS: I can't see that it would do any harm this one time. I just can't let Olsen down!

POLITICIAN: I can't let O'Brien down!"

DELEGATE: (Opening pamphlet) Why don't we see what it says about it here. TRADITION 11 says, "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion." You really don't need a political TV show to attract new members. In fact, the traditions say, "we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." You see, A.A. IS a spiritual program and TRADITION 12 states that "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our traditions ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." Look here, I have a thought. Why don't I, or better still FOUNDER, read our Traditions straight through, and see if applying them might not make a big change in the problems of your group. (Hands the pamphlet to FOUNDER)

FOUNDER: (Reads TRADITIONS) It sure does look like we've been making every mistake in the book! (To OTHERS) Shall we go along with DELEGATE?

(All nod)

MONEYBAGS: I'm for him 100% I'll just write a check right now.

ALL: NO! NO! NO! We pay our own way. Remember?

POLITICIAN: I'm all for it! It's just what I've been talking about right along.

FOUNDER: I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll order some of these pamphlets right away! I'll eliminate the screening committee—myself, that is—and...and we'll have an election.

EAGER BEAVER: Good! I nominate FOUNDER for our first elected leader! I certainly think DELEGATE was guided here by a Higher Power tonight. I think we knew all along we were on the wrong track, but we didn't know where we were wrong.

DELEGATE: Actually, every one of our Traditions is based on mistakes the early members of A.A. made.

NEWCOMER: (Raises hand)

FOUNDER: And just to show my good faith, here's this new man, a brand new man, sitting here all evening with a question. (To NEWCOMER) Stand up and ask your question, fellow!

NEWCOMER: I've only got one question. WHERE'S THE BATHROOM??