

**Network** • 1976 • Peter Finch, Faye Dunaway • c.5 min. 01:02:21 --> 01:07:05

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- **grammar points:** let's, going to, can, -est, will
- **phrasal verbs:** get, come out of, falls into, deal in, turn off
- **idioms:** cue, mad, soothsayer, woe is us, what has that got to do with, right now, tube, make or break, jugglers, sideshow freaks, lion-tamers, man, like, no matter how much, spinning, even, madness

.....  
WOMAN:

...three, two, one...

MAN:

Three, **cue** announcer.

ANNOUNCER:

Ladies and gentlemen, **let's** hear it!

How do you feel?

ALL:

We're **mad** as hell and we're **not going to take** this anymore!

ANNOUNCER:

Ladies and gentlemen, the Network News Hour with "Sibyl the **Soothsayer**"!

Jim Webbing and his "It's-the-Emes Truth Department".

Ms. Mata Hari and her "Skeletons in the Closet".

And tonight, another segment of "Vox Populi".

And starring the **Mad** Prophet of the Airways, Howard Beale!

**HOWARD:**

Edward George Ruddy died today.

Edward George Ruddy was the chairman of the board of the Union Broadcasting Systems and he died at 11:00 this morning of a heart condition, and **woe is us**, we're in a lot of trouble.

So, a rich little man with white hair died.

**What has that got to do with** the price of rice, right?

And why is that **woe** to us?

Because you people and 62 million other Americans are listening to me **right now**.

Because less than 3 percent of you people read books.

Because less than 15 percent of you read newspapers.

Because the only truth you know is what you **get** over this **tube**.

**Right now**, there is a whole, an entire generation that never knew anything that didn't **come out of** this tube.

This tube is the Gospel.

The ultimate revelation.

This tube **can make or break** presidents, popes, prime ministers...

This tube is the most awesome goddamn force in the whole godless world!

And **woe is us** if it ever **falls into** the hands of the wrong people.

And that's why **woe is us** that Edward George Ruddy died.

Because this company is now in the hands of CCA: the Communication Corporation of America.

There's a new chairman of the board.

A man called Frank Hackett sitting in Mr. Ruddy's office on the 20th floor.

And when the 12th largest company in the world controls the most awesome, goddamn propaganda force in the whole godless world who knows what shit **will** be peddled for truth on this network.

So you listen to me. Listen to me!

Television is not the truth.

Television's a goddamned amusement park.

Television is a circus, a carnival, a traveling troupe of acrobats, storytellers, dancers, singers, **jugglers, sideshow freaks, lion-tamers**, and football players.

We're in the boredom-killing business.

So if you want the truth, go to God.

Go to your gurus.

Go to yourselves.

Because that's the only place you're ever **going to** find any real truth.

But, **man**, you're never gonna get any truth from us.

We'll tell you anything you want to hear.

We lie **like** hell.

We'll tell you that Kojak always **gets** the killer and that nobody ever **gets** cancer in Archie Bunker's house.

**No matter how much** trouble the hero is in, don't worry...just look at your watch, at the end of the hour he's **going to** win!

We'll tell you any shit you want to hear.

We **deal in** illusions, man.

None of it is true.

But you people sit there, day after day, night after night, all ages, colors, creeds.

We're all you know.

You're beginning to believe the illusions we're **spinning** here.

You're beginning to think the tube is reality and that your own lives are unreal.

You do whatever the tube tells you.

You dress **like** the tube, you eat **like** the tube, you raise your children **like** the tube, you **even** think **like** the tube.

This is mass **madness**, you maniacs.

In God's name, you people are the real thing.

We are the illusion.

So **turn off** your television sets.

**Turn** them **off** now.

**Turn** them **off right now**.

**Turn** them **off** and **leave** them **off**.

**Turn** them **off right** in the middle of the sentence I'm speaking to you now.

**Turn** them **off**!