

03 Reporter (Sinclair, Chaplin)

SCENE THREE - SINCLAIR CAMP - SEPTEMBER, 1934

Lights up on a desk covered in papers, books, and a typewriter. SINCLAIR is posed behind the typewriter looking serious. CHAPLIN watches on. There is a REPORTER, with a PHOTOGRAPHER setting up the shot. FLASH!

REPORTER

Alrighty, Mr. Sinclair. Now give us one straight to the camera.

SINCLAIR

Look directly at the camera?

REPORTER

Hey Mr. Chaplin, since we got ya here, how about you hop in there?

CHAPLIN

And do what?

REPORTER

You're an actor. Do something "acty"?

CHAPLIN

Acty? Did you just say "acty"?

REPORTER

Yeah, like something from one of your pictures.

CHAPLIN

I think it's best if I just sit this out.

REPORTER

Aw, come on! We'll sell so many more copies if you're-

CHAPLIN

Just get on with it.

REPORTER

Okay! Mr. Sinclair, tilt your head up a little. Toward the typewriter. But keep your eyes on me.

SINCLAIR

Like this?

REPORTER

Up a little more. Like you're typing something, but then a beautiful dame walks into the room.

SINCLAIR

Better?

REPORTER

Um...yeah. Sure. That's perfect.

FLASH!

SINCLAIR

I feel like I should be smiling. Should I be smiling?

CHAPLIN

What do other politicians do? I can't picture one bloody politician right now. Does FDR smile? He must smile.

SINCLAIR

I think I can picture him smiling.

CHAPLIN

Me too. No teeth, though. But it's a nice smile. A classic smile. Like this!

CHAPLIN shows SINCLAIR a beautiful smile.

SINCLAIR

So, I should do that? The classic FDR smile?

REPORTER

Yeah...sure. Just like FDR.

SINCLAIR puts on an incredibly forced smile. Nothing like CHAPLIN.

SINCLAIR

How's this?

REPORTER

Holy sh-wow...um...Mr. Sinclair, maybe not quite so...forced.

