



Skit #4: Equal Application of the Law

Roles:

Judge
Thief
Officer
Town Mayor

Summary:

After sentencing a thief to five years of hard labor for stealing potatoes at the market, the judge finds the town mayor waiting in his office. The mayor had a problem at the market, too. He lost his temper with a vendor because of the vendor's high prices. The mayor broke things in the vendor's shop and broke the vendor's arm. Because of the mayor's position, the judge agrees to overlook the offense.

Skit:

JUDGE: I find you guilty of stealing two sacks of potatoes from the market. I sentence you to five years of hard labor and a \$1,000 fine.

THIEF: But Your Honor, I don't have any money!

JUDGE: Then you should not have broken the law. Case closed! I'm going to take a break.

THIEF: Wait! This isn't fair!

OFFICER: Settle down. Let's go.

THIEF: It was only potatoes! My kids didn't have enough to eat!

OFFICER: Be quiet, or I'll have to gag you!

[in the judge's chambers]

JUDGE: Hey there! This is a surprise. Good to see you.

TOWN MAYOR: Listen. I've got a small problem.

JUDGE: Oh?

TOWN MAYOR: I had an issue with this vendor at the market. You know how it is. These guys and their prices—they try to get away with murder these days! I might have let my temper get a little out of hand.

JUDGE: How out of hand?

TOWN MAYOR: I might have broken a few things. Including his arm.

[judge sighs]

TOWN MAYOR: Look. I've known you for a long time. Since before you got this job, if you understand my meaning.

JUDGE: I understand very well. But you don't need to pull that with me. You're the mayor—I'll take care of things.

TOWN MAYOR: That's what I figured, but I wanted to talk to you in person.

JUDGE: Doesn't sound to me like there was any problem at the market at all. [laughs] Those vendors should learn how to treat a customer right.

TOWN MAYOR: [laughing] I am the mayor, after all!