

HARRY

Well, tell him I'm loaded and looking for action.

(Crosses to R., past Nicely)

I just acquired five thousand potatoes.

BENNY

Five thousand bucks!

NICELY

Where did you acquire it?

HARRY

I collected the reward on my father.

(Exits R.1)

BENNY

Everybody is looking for action. I wish Nathan finds a—

(He stops as BRANNIGAN enters — gets paper at newsstand — crosses to Benny)

NICELY

Why, Lieutenant Brannigan! Mr. Southstreet, it is Lieutenant Brannigan of the New York Police Department.

BENNY

(Crosses to R.)

A pleasure.

(Moves away)

BRANNIGAN

Any of you guys seen Nathan Detroit?

BENNY

Which Nathan Detroit is that?

(BRANNIGAN folds his paper with an abrupt movement and faces the two men)

BRANNIGAN

I mean the Nathan Detroit who's been running a floating crap game around here, and getting away with it by moving it to a different spot every night.

NICELY

Why are you telling us this — Your Honor?

BRANNIGAN

I am telling you this because I know you two bums work for Detroit, rustling up customers for his crap game.

NICELY

We do?

BRANNIGAN

Yeah!

NICELY

Oh!

BRANNIGAN

You can tell him for me: I know that right now he's running around trying to find a spot. Well, nobody's gonna give him a spot, because they all know that Brannigan is breathing down their neck!

(Starts to exit. NATHAN enters from above newsstand, not seeing Brannigan)

NICELY

Hi, Nathan!

NATHAN

Fellas, I'm having terrible trouble. Everybody's scared on account of that lousy Brannigan, and I can't—

BRANNIGAN

Something wrong, Mr. Detroit?

NATHAN

(A sickly grimace)

Oh, hello, Lieutenant. I hope you don't think I was talking about you. There are other lousy Brannigans.

BRANNIGAN

Detroit, I have just been talking to your colleagues about your crap game. I imagine you are having trouble finding a place.

NATHAN

Well, the heat is on, as you must know from the fact that you now have to live on your salary.

(BRANNIGAN glares and exits L.1)

BENNY

(Crosses to Nathan)

Did you find a place?

NATHAN

What does that cop want from me? What am I—a sex maniac? I merely run a crap game for the convenience of those who want a little action, in return for which I take a small cut. Is that a crime! Yeah!