

Our Man Hoppe

Help the Needy, Hire Mr. Agnew


Arthur Hoppe

"GOOD MORNING, sir. Welcome to The Extremis Employment Agency. Now, first, your name?"

"Agnew. Spiro T. The T stands for Ted."

"Fine, Ted. Now what was the last position you held?"

"Vice President. I was Vice President for the past five years."

Oh, a former White House official? Well, Ted, we get a lot of them through here these days. But, don't worry, I'm sure we can find something for you anyway. Now, then, reasons for leaving?"

"I resigned. As I told the President, I resigned 'in the best interest of the nation.'"

"You say you quit your last job for the good of your employers? That's a new one, Ted. But with loyalty like that maybe we can land you a good government job. Now, the Internal Revenue Service is looking for . . ."

"Maybe I ought to just mention that I happen to be on three years probation for income tax evasion."

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"YES, I'M GLAD you mentioned that, Ted. Nothing to be ashamed of. The newspapers are filled with stories of people who don't pay taxes, Governor Reagan, the President . . ."

"That reminds me. I've got a letter of recommendation here from the President. See? It says, 'Dear Ted.' Then down here he writes, 'Your strong patriotism, and your profound dedication to the welfare of the nation, have been an inspiration to all who have served with you as well as to millions of others throughout the country.'"

"Millions of others, too! I never realized there were that many tax evaders to inspire, Ted. But let's get down to your

qualifications. What were your duties in that last job you held?"

"Well, every couple of months or so I presided over the Senate."

"That's too bad, Ted. We just filled a job as a zoo keeper this morning."

"And I carried messages from the President to heads of state all over the world. 'Congratulations on your anniversary.' That sort of thing."

"We could try Western Union, Ted. Can you sing 'Happy Birthday'?"

"I was thinking of a more responsible position. After all, when the President got mad at the press, I took them on. When the President got sore at the demonstrators, I laid into them. When the President got into trouble, I took the blame. He got the credit and I got the lumps."

"Wait, Ted, I've got it! Do you ride a motorcycle? Evel Knievel's planning to jump across the Grand Canyon and he's looking for a stand-in."

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"I DON'T RIDE a motorcycle, damn it! And, furthermore, I think my five years of unquestioned loyalty deserve better. Even when the Justice Department closed in on me, I maintained a dignified silence. I never once accused the President of ingratitude even though everyone said he was trying to dump me."

"Hold it, Ted. Just let me make a phone call here. Hello, Louie? What do you hear, ha, ha, from the mob? Say, I understand you're looking for a hit man. Sure he's got a record. Would I send you an amateur? Loyal? Listen, Louie, this dude is so loyal that if you make him the fall guy, he won't even rat on you. Thanks, Louie, and the best to The Family. Congratulations, Ted, Louie says you were made for the job!"