

Excerpt from 'The Government Inspector'

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Choral speech **in bold**.

WELCOME TO THE MAYOR'S HOUSE

The Inspectors introduce the Mayor's house, 'air-drawing' what they describe and becoming physical props.

Inspector 1 Welcome to the Mayor's house, the biggest, most expensive house on the finest street in this small town. Impressive, isn't it? Notice it has high ceilings, a large window that opens...

Inspectors 2 & 3 become the window and throw themselves open.

Inspector 1 Smell that country air, breathe it in!

Inspectors **Invigorating!**

Inspector 2&3 *(drawing/miming the wallpaper)* **Gold wallpaper, hand-painted with flora, fauna and foliage.**

Inspector 1 Four hundred a roll.

Inspectors **Expensive!**

Inspector 1 On the wall, an antique mirror.

Inspector 2 air-draws a large mirror and inhabits it.

Inspector 3 Looks expensive.

Mirror I am!

Inspector 3 In the corner, a drinks trolley

Inspector 1 becomes a decanter and Inspector 3 a glass.

Inspector 2 where the Mayor has poured himself a stiff brandy... *(Taking stopper from the decanter, making the sound effect)* Shing!

- Inspector 1** from his crystal decanter. (*As decanter, pouring brandy*)
Glug glug glug!
- Inspector 3** Mmmm, smooth,,,
- Inspector 2** (*replacing the stopper*) Shing!
- Inspectors** **and expensive.**
- Inspector 2** Here is a huge family portrait of
- Inspector 1** (*becoming Mayor in the portrait*) The Mayor
- Inspector 3** (*becoming Anna in the portrait*) His wife
- Inspector 1** and (*becoming Maria in the portrait*) his seventeen year old daughter.
- Inspector 2** Don't they look happy?
- Inspectors 1&3** (*as portrait Anna & Maria, forcing smiles*) **Ding!**
- Inspector 3** Once upon a time, the Mayor gathered together (*indicating that this includes the audience*) the important gentlemen who ran the town to deliver some unsettling news.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC OFFICE: ACCOUNTABILITY

Inspector 3 rings a bell and holds up the 'Accountability' placard.

- Inspector 3** Accountability: holders of public office should be accountable to the public for their decisions and actions.

A MAYOR DELIVERS SOME UNSETTLING NEWS

- Mayor** (*calling for quiet*) Gentlemen, gentlemen, settle down, settle down...! Gentlemen, I have some unsettling news. We are to be inspected!

- Chief of Police** (*holding up 'Gasp' placard*) Gasp!

The audience gasp.

- Judge** What kind of inspection?

Mayor A Government kind of inspection, Judge

Chief of Police *(holding up 'Gasp' placard)* Gasp!

The audience gasp.

Chief of Police The worst kind of inspection!

Mayor That's right, Chief of Police. I received a letter this morning from my friend in the city, a reliable source and a good chap.

Chief of Police & Judge A good chap!

Chief of Police holds up the 'Sounds of Agreement' placard. He and the Judge encourage the audience to join in agreeing about the good chap.

Mayor *(unfolding an invisible letter)* He writes:
'My dearest friend and patron, I must warn you that an Inspector is travelling to the district with orders to investigate your town.'

Chief of Police Investigate our town? For what?

Mayor For *(reading)* 'financial mismanagement and corruption'!

Chief of Police *(holding up 'Gasp' placard)* Gasp!

The audience gasp.

Chief of Police This is the last thing we need.

Mayor Like all honest men in positions of power, we know that standards are...

Judge ... difficult to maintain!

Chief of Police holds up the 'Sounds of Agreement' placard again.

Mayor And with the pressure of our busy jobs, daily bureaucracy may have...

Chief of Police ... slipped somewhat.

Judge Yes, perhaps a lucrative contract goes to a friend here...

Chief of Police ... a 'minor' law is broken there...

Mayor Big brown envelopes stuffed with cash...

The Mayor, Judge and Chief of Police fondly visualise fat bribes they have known.

All **Mmmmm...!**

Chief of Police Sir, there have to be some benefits to the pressures of power and leadership sir.

Mayor Absolutely, Chief of Police, absolutely!

Chief of Police holds up the 'Sounds of Agreement' placard again.

Mayor *(returning to the letter)* This Government Inspector will be travelling incognito,

Chief of Police *(not understanding)* In-cog-what-o?

Mayor In disguise as a normal citizen... and gentlemen, he may already be here!

Charity Commissioner Already here?

Mayor So it says, Charity Commissioner.

Judge Incognito? Deeply suspicious, Douglas.

Charity Commissioner Why... us?

Judge *(ignoring Charity Commissioner)* This is a political move. Someone has got it in for us!

Chief of Police We could have been targeted sir. A plot by some vindictive external extremists!

Mayor Gentlemen! This is no time for conspiracy theories. *(Aside)* However, I am concerned about the Shopkeepers Union.

When we hear the Mayor's Inner Voice, Chief of Police and Judge transform into nightmare Shopkeepers trying to grab at the Mayor, chanting 'We Deserve Better!'

Mayor's Inner Voice The Shopkeepers have got it in for you Douglas... You've got to act now! Clamp down on them. Increase the 'Mayor's tax'. Bleed them. Bleed them dry!

The scene snaps back to where it had been.

Mayor We must take a level-headed approach and get this town Inspection ready!