

SCENE FOUR: Pulitzer's Office & Cellar, Afternoon

(The MAYOR, SEITZ, BUNSEN, and PULITZER are in a heated discussion. KATHERINE sits, listening quietly.)

START

MAYOR

... but I've read your editorials, Mr. Pulitzer. How can you express so much sympathy for the trolley workers and yet have none for the newsies?

PULITZER

Because the trolley workers are striking for a fair contract. The newsies are striking against me!

MAYOR

I'd spare you this embarrassment if I could, but the burlesque house is private property.

BUNSEN

He can't order a raid without legal cause.

PULITZER

Mr. Mayor, would the fact that this rally is organized by an escaped convict be enough to shut it down?

MAYOR

An escaped convict?

PULITZER

A fugitive from one of your own institutions. A convicted thief, at large, reeking mischief on our law-abiding community.

(turns his desk chair around to reveal SNYDER and holds out the newspaper)

Mr. Snyder, which one is he?

SNYDER

(pointing to the photo)

That one there: Jack Kelly.

MAYOR

And how do you know this boy?

SNYDER

His is not a pleasant story. He was first sentenced to my Refuge for loitering and vagrancy, but his total disregard of authority has made him a frequent visitor.

MAYOR

You called him a thief and escaped convict.

END