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“Burns vs. Simpson” by Wendolin Gutierrez
Inspired by Ian Frazier’s “Coyote vs. Acme, Plaintiff’s Opening Statement”

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT OF OREGON
Springfield, Oregon
Judge Roy Snyder Presiding

CHARLES MONTGOMERY BURNS, Plaintiff v
HOMER J. SIMPSON, Defendant

OPENING STATEMENT OF LIONEL HUTZ, COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT

By Mr. Hutz,

My client, Homer J. Simpson, a resident of the city of Springfield in the state of Oregon and employee of the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant, has been brought to court by the city of Springfield and Mr. Charles Montgomery Burns, owner of the Springfield Power Plant and Mr. Simpson’s employer, under poorly investigated circumstances. Mr. Simpson seeks to prove his innocence in the crimes and actions he has been accused of, demonstrate he is a responsible employee worthy of maintaining his position as the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant’s Nuclear Safety Inspector, and wishes to file a countersuit against Mr. Burns, the proper criminal and source of the catastrophic event he accuses his employee of committing. Mr. Simpson states that he has been wrongfully accused of starting a plant failure in which over 1 million gallons of hazardous nuclear waste were released from the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant’s waste receptacles into the city of Springfield, resulting in accusations of the misdemeanor destruction of city property, destruction of wildlife, and danger to public health and safety. These allegations have harmed Mr. Simpson’s reputation as a citizen and plant worker.

Statement of the Case

Mr. Simpson states that on January 2nd, 2014 at approximately 10:13 AM, he awoke lying face-down on top of his control panel in Sector 7G where numerous buttons, including the “Nuclear Meltdown” button he reported he awoke with his left hand on, and switches that control factory operations and communications with other factory sectors are installed. Mr. Simpson also reported that a loud, wailing siren was heard in his workplace along with flashing red lights, and his co-workers, who were working in the lower sector visible from Mr. Simpson’s sector window, running frantically with their hands in the air and open mouths as if they were screaming or were avoiding their worker duties and engaging in a group activity which they didn’t invite Mr. Simpson to participate in. He was then turned around on his spinning chair by Waylon Smithers, Mr. Burns’ assistant, and by Mr. Burns himself. After interrogating Mr. Simpson about the situation at the plant, Mr. Smithers, under Mr. Burns’ orders, left the sector,

returned, and released five of Mr. Burns' Doberman Pinschers onto Simpson's person. The Dobermans made numerous bites and scratches to my client's body including his arms, neck, and backside, as shown by the photographs under Section III Exhibits A-F of this document, that required medical attention.

According to Mr. Simpson, he was not given context on the situation at the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant until he watched the 11 o'clock news. My client learned that the valves of the Power Plant's two waste receptacles were opened, releasing 1 million gallons of hazardous nuclear waste into the interior of the Plant and the city of Springfield. A reported 20 employees received tenth-degree burns and suffered physical mutations. Two employees, Mr. Lenford Leonard and Mr. Carl Carlson recounted the event and how, as a result, Leonard grew a third eye and 3 additional fingers (2 on his left hand and 1 on his right) and Carlson grew 2 additional arms and 2 left legs on his back. Similar cases were reported by Springfield residents who the nuclear substances reached.

The following day, Thursday, January 3rd, at around 8:31 AM, Mr. Simpson received a letter of dismissal in the mail with the following reasons listed:

- 1) Sleeping during work outside of his two 30-minute breaks.
- 2) Being a fat, incompetent buffoon.
- 3) Causing bodily harm onto other Springfield Nuclear Power Plant personnel.
- 4) Exceeding the company's Five Strike Work Error Policy with 23 strikes.
- 5) Damaging over \$2.1 million worth of equipment and workplace supplies.

That same day Simpson was delivered a court summons by Springfield Police Department's Commissioner Clancy Wiggum and Sergeant Lou Whitaker from the United States District Court Northwestern District of Oregon, stating Mr. Simpson has also been sued by the city of Springfield for the following:

- 1) Destruction of \$3 billion in city property and infrastructure.
- 2) Destruction of city fauna.
- 3) Endangerment and mutation of wildlife.
- 4) Destruction of over \$50 billion in private property and possessions of Springfield residents, including homes and businesses.
- 5) \$5 million for psychological treatment of residents affected by the Nuclear Power Plant's wastes.

The police personnel arrived and handcuffed Mr. Simpson, read his rights, and finally arrested him. Mr. Simpson was driven to the Springfield Penitentiary and was held for two weeks awaiting trial.

Argument

A. Violation of Treatment of Workers

My client has been charged for crimes that have been pre-established by his employer, Mr. Charles Montgomery Burns, as a result of his mishandling of the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant. Section III Exhibit G includes a series of testimonials from all current Power Plant workers. All testimonies have detailed poor working conditions and factory protocol that has caused physical and psychological harm to their person, demonstrating to be more disastrous to their well-being than what may have been caused by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Lenford Leonard, listed under Testimonial #2, stated that on December 15 he approached Mr. Burns in his office to ask for a week-long leave to attend a funeral for his “father’s brother’s ex-wife’s step-brother’s wife’s cousin’s best friend and not monster truck festival” in Oklahoma. After Mr. Lenford gave his plea, Mr. Burns pressed a button on his desk which sent Lenford through a trapdoor into a piranha-infested tank where the fish began biting Lenford. A total of 58 piranhas clung to Mr. Lenford’s body. Only 57 fishes were able to be removed by Dr. Julius M. Hibbert as the removal of the 58th, which had clung to Lenford’s groin area, could result in life-threatening blood loss. Mr. Carl Carlson, under Testimony #3, revealed that on his first day working at the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant, he had a “very urgent matter” to take care of in the bathroom, which required the whole day until 7:59 PM. Since the Plant stops operation at 8:00 PM, Mr. Carlson made his way to the front door to leave. However, he immediately realized the doors had just been locked as Mr. Burns and Mr. Smithers were on the other side holding the keys. A simple insertion and turn of the keys would be enough to release Mr. Carlson from the confines of the Power Plant, but Mr. Burns would not do so, even after Carlson begged and cried on his knees. Mr. Carlson had to spend an entire night in the darkness of the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant, neglected of food, heat, light, and entertainment. Carlson has also experienced psychological disturbances since then in which he sees the ghost of Bill Billson, a former Plant worker that slipped on a banana peel into a tub of acid to his demise. He allegedly haunts the halls of the factory harassing night workers for banana flavored Tic-Tacs, as Mr. Carlson says happened to him. My client gave the most complaints regarding Mr Burns’ termination of Taco Tuesdays in the Plant cafeteria, his limit of one donut a day, low pay, and his ban on napping. The complete five-page list can be found under Testimonial 1 in Section III. According to Dr. Hibbert, all workers are in need of psychological counseling to cope with their mental sufferings, treatment not covered by the Plant’s insurance policy, along with “any sort of work-related injuries,” that costs employees \$10,000 a year. Not only has Mr. Burns’ operation of the plant caused physical and mental injuries to the loyal employees who come everyday, but he has hurt them financially as well.

With these testimonials in mind, this idleness that Mr. Burns claims my client, as well as his colleagues, possesses comes not as a result of Mr. Simpson’s nature but as a form of protest. These conditions Mr. Burns has placed on his workers are abusive and inhumane, and it is obvious my client and his co-workers have come together to demand better. After revising the complaints, Mr. Simpson has confirmed that he and his co-workers have intentionally not performed work duties out of justice and *not* laziness. Our opponents have stated that they

possess 10 years' worth of video footage of employee activity such as swivel chair races through the hallways of the Nuclear Power Plant, stealing 30 pounds of ground beef and 10 pounds of flour tortillas for burrito eating contests also present in the video, and repeated late night parties in the darkness of the plant in which employees dance to The Human League's "Don't You Want Me" as they use uranium rods as glow sticks. This is simply evidence of the length of Mr. Burns' abuses and Mr. Simpson and his colleagues' discontent with the company they labor for. If a company like the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant had policies that made the safety and well-being of its employees its priority, it would not have employees defy their occupational expectations. The fact that my client and his coworkers have acted in such a defiant manner for years demonstrates that Mr. Burns has had in place the same abusive policies that exploit the bodies of his workers despite their demands.

B. Violation of Workplace Safety

Mr. Burns' neglect of his workers is as bad as the neglect of his power plant infrastructure and hazardous materials. On their most recent inspection of the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant, the Federal Nuclear Power Plant Inspection Bureau found a total of 342 maintenance violations and safety hazards, amounting to \$56 million fine. Violations included using gum to seal the cracks in the cooling tower, using plutonium rods as paperweights, and possessing a basement flooded with liquid uranium. The inspector declared that "this visit was the most extreme case the Bureau has recorded in its 20-year existence." Besides neglecting safety measures that would protect workers from being directly exposed to nuclear matter, Mr. Burns has also demonstrated poor decision-making skills that have put his workers, and Springfield residents, in danger. Section III Exhibit J, is a copy of Mr. Burns' order for the control panel in Mr. Simpson's workplace. On it, Mr. Burns requested to have a Meltdown Button included in the panel that would release the toxic nuclear waste into the public. When asked why he requested this button, Mr. Burns could not formulate an answer, demonstrating that the Meltdown Button had no viable use and that it was ignorant of Mr. Burns to order the installation of a button that could put the city of Springfield and its residents in extreme danger, especially when he personally assigned Mr. Simpson, who he described as an "incompetent buffoon," to supervise it. The Springfield Nuclear Power Plant's meltdown was caused by Mr. Burns' mismanagement and exploitation of his workers, not Mr. Simpson whose exhausted state from all the injustices he has faced triggered the Meltdown Button.

C. Crimes Against the Community

Mr. Burns has also committed numerous crimes affecting the wildlife and human lives of the city of Springfield, Oregon prior to the incident Mr. Simpson has been charged with, which we believe also stemmed from Mr. Burns' doing. In May 1999, it was found that the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant had been using numerous locations throughout the city not qualified for the disposal of hazardous nuclear waste to do so. Nuclear waste was found in the sand of Springfield Park's playground, where dozens of children between the ages of 3 and 5 lost their hair. Barrels

of the waste were stuffed into the trunks of oak trees also in Springfield Park, whose branches transformed into flailing, octopus-like tentacles and where a family of squirrels developed glowing, blue eyes that shot laser beams. Finally, the Springfield River aquatic life suffered astounding mutations. The most prominent was a 3-eyed fish who the community has named Blinky. Mr. Cletus Delroy Spuckler and his wife/sister Brandine, residents who live near Springfield River, have reported that the waste in the water has contributed to the stunted intellectual growth of their children Tiffany, Heather, Cody, Dylan, Dermott, Jordan, Taylor, Brittany, Wesley, Rumer, Scout, Cassidy, Zoe, Chloe, Max, Hunter, Kendall, Katlin, Noah, Sasha, Morgan, Kyra, Ian, Lauren, Q-Bert, Phil, Mary, Birthday, Dubya, Jitney, Whitney, Crystal Meth, International Harvester, and Incest. Prosecuting Mr. Simpson for expelling nuclear waste into the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant and the city home to the plant is hypocritical of Mr. Burns. If anything, Mr. Simpson was performing his job by releasing the hazardous nuclear matter into the public and putting the lives of numerous citizens and the future of the city of Springfield at risk, just as his employer Mr. Burns has done for years.

D. Possible History of Other Crimes

Mr. Burns has also been accused of being the actual Devil but the Defense has no “sound” proof of this. However, my client, Mr. Simpson, and I feel this is another important factor for the jury to consider in their deliberation.

Conclusion

As a result of Mr. Burns’ abuses and infractions of the Power Plant Workers Rights Bill’s Sanction 8v3-15 and 342 failures to maintain a safe working environment under the Nuclear Power Safety Act, Mr. Simpson wishes to countersue Mr. Burns for \$30 Zillion. We ask the jury to recognize the severity and guilt of Mr. Montgomery Burns’ crimes as well as the circumstances that led to the event my client has been charged for. Ruling in favor of Mr. Simpson will establish true justice and serve as a victory to all the deserving workers of the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant and Springfield residents whose rights and physical and psychological health have been dismissed by Mr. Burns for too long.