

**A Bunch of Broke People
Vs.
Ann Flation**

Defendant: Ms. Ann Flation

Charge: Assault on the economy

Witnesses for the prosecution

President Jimmy Carter

Alan Greenspan

Mr. Fix Ed Income

Mr. Con Glomerate

Professor No Bank

Witnesses for the Defense

Mr. I.O. "Many" Bucks

Tiller Grower

Ms. Iona Lotts

Ms. Ann Flation

Others:

Judge

Prosecution Attorney

Defense Attorney

Bailiff

Jury

Bailiff: All Rise. The Honorable Judge Adam Smith Presiding

Judge: Bailiff, What is our first case?

Bailiff: Your Honor it is case number 1979, the people versus Ms. Ann Flation

Judge: Would the prosecution please call its first witness.

Prosecution Attorney A: Your Honor I'd like to call our first witness is Mr. Fix Ed Income
(Witness is sworn in)

Prosecution attorney: Mr. Income would you explain the ways in which the defendant, Ms. Ann Flation has caused you harm and mental anguish?

Mr. Income: Well, only two years ago food, rent, and, my blood pressure pills took about sixty percent of my income. I had money to spoil my grandchildren and have money to go clubbin' on Friday nights. Now the prices of everything have gone up so much I had to move to a smaller apartment, my food bill is enormously high, and my medicine costs me a small fortune. I don't even have enough money to go shake it at the clubs anymore. The Ladies like me ya' know.

Prosecution attorney: No further questions

Prosecution attorney: Your Honor with your permission I'd like to call Mr. Con Glomerate
(Witness is sworn in)

Prosecution attorney: Could you tell us just what effects the defendant has had on your business?

Mr. Glomerate: First, all of our costs for production have hella risen, making us raise the cost of the finished product. A lot of business owners take advantage of NAFTA and set up camp somewhere like Mexico to cut costs. I don't want to give away American Jobs, but it looks like I 'm S.O.L. if I stay here and so are the poor workers who used to work for my company.

Prosecution attorney: Have there been any other detrimental effects caused by the defendant?

Mr. Glomerate: Hell, yeah! It's almost impossible to plan for the future. The prices of the new capital goods- construction plants, and purchases of new equipment-leave us hesitant to predict expansion costs and make long term contracts. The PPI is simply out of control.

Prosecution attorney: Thank you Mr. Glomerate. You may step down now.

(Prosecution calls for Professor No Bank and he is sworn in)

Prosecution attorney: Professor, what has been your relationship with the defendant?

Professor: I teach economics and sociology, so I am well acquainted with Ms. Flation and the consequences of dealing with her. Unfortunately, the fact that I know her does not make it easier to deal with what she leaves in her wake.

Prosecution attorney: Would you enlighten us, Professor?

Professor: We teachers do not have cost-of-living in our contracts. Thus, we find ourselves reluctantly pursuing Ms. Ann Flation-unable to catch-up, certainly never overtaking her. Most of my professors are leaving the area and some of them altogether are unable to purchase a home. How fair is it that the very educators which are making this nation more productive by training the next generation of leaders can't even afford the American dream, a house. We have to drive to our workplaces from farther and farther away eating up our time destroying the environment and..

Prosecution attorney: Um, Thank you. Has the defendant's affected you in any other way?

Professor: We also find the defendant's mischief detrimental to our students. It is the Students tuition which must pay for wages to support the staff and hire excellent new teacher, maintenance of the University, expansion of the classroom and many other increasing costs. These same students must also pay for their increasingly expensive college-textbooks, room and board, Ipads, iPhones, Imicrowaves, and who knows what. And then these students must also pay for their increasingly expensive college textbooks, room and board, entertainment, and eventually college loan. The increased cost we are forced to pass on to our students threaten our very livelihood.

We teachers wake up every day in a cold sweat, living in constant fear that the student population will decline the point where the knowledge our forefathers have so painfully accumulated will be forever lost to future generations. The great legacy of the human path is our duty to uphold at all costs! We must-

DEFENSE ATTORNEY (interrupting): But the loans they pay off wont be as much with Ann Flation will they?

JUDGE: Don't answer that. Mr. Attorney - you'll get your turn. Continue professor.

PROFESSOR: Just like a rude student in class. There's always at least one. As, I was saying...The increased costs we must pass onto our students threaten our very livelihood. We teachers live in fear that the students population will decline the point that the knowledge we have so painfully accumulated will be forever last to future generations. It is our duty to uphold the great legacy of the human path at all costs! We must...

Prosecution attorney: Thank you Professor. You may step down.

(Prosecution calls former U.S. president James Earl Carter Jr.)

Prosecution attorney: Mr. President would you

PRESIDENT CARTER: you can call me Jimmy.

Prosecution attorney: all right, Jimmy would you please try to describe what the defendant did to you?

JIMMY: I tell ya what, that woman stopped me from having what could have been the best presidency to date. During my term her rate rose up like a dog's nose in mating season. Sure I did a few things like CREATE THE DAMN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION! I guess when people have to spend more money for things they are blind to everything else. I could have had some wonderful things for this country in a second term boys, believe-you-me. I was honest. I was chill. Remember the playboy interview when I admitted to lusting after those girls? For gosh sakes I even admitted to lusting in that Playboy interview.....

Prosecution attorney: Um, thank you Mr.....Jimmy. Can we get back on track?

JIMMY: Well what ya want to know?.... it's not like I have all day either ya' know. I'm building all of those houses for the Habitat for Humanity and running international peace missions and I'm running out of time to earn that Nobel Peace.....

Prosecution attorney: How did the defendant affect the people in your nation during your time of office?

JIMMY: Well there was a misery in the nation. People's wages couldn't keep up and we had energy down to 68. I understood their pain... No maybe that was Clinton who felt their pain... My age is starting to catch up with me. Dementia and all that I am getting kind of old and my memory is starting to fade... did you know I was a nuclear sub captain? Oh man, what couldn't I do? I-

Prosecution attorney: You can step down now

JIMMY: Well I wasn't quite finished..... As I was saying-

Prosecution attorney: Right, right, thank you for your time sir.

JIMMY: Okay, I get it, just like my presidency. It's that dang election all over again. You know if it hadn't been for that damn Cost-Push Inflation Miss Flation caused I could've done so much more in a second term, but ya'll just hear what ya want to, don't ya? But oh, don't worry ya'll I'll just go back to being a damn peanut farmer!

Judge: Mr. President, I don't want to have to remove you from my courtroom so will you please step down from the stand or I'll have to hold you in contempt.

JIMMY: Hey, you know I'm the president, son. You should treat your elders with respect

Judge: Bailiff, remove Mr. Carter for the courtroom!

(The Bailiff removes the furious president and the trial continues)

Judge: Counselor you may call you next witness, and for Pete's sake I hope it's better than that.

Prosecution attorney: Thank you your honor, and so do I. The prosecution calls for Alan Greenspan

(Greenspan is sworn in)

PROSECUTION ATTORNEY: Mr. Greenspan, what do you do and how does the defendant trouble you?

GREENSPAN: I am the chairman of the Federal Reserve. Ann Flation has caused drastic changes in the economy, and my job is pretty much the hot spot of American money. Every time there is a change in money exchange the cause is her or myself. The difference between us is that I fix mine by taking antacid. However, her problems require much more effort to solve. Change in money supply, discount rates, reserve requirements, any, and or all these and more go into cleaning up her mess. And I am the one with the mop.

PROSECUTION ATTORNEY: Thank you Mr. Greenspan, you may step down. Your honor, the prosecution rests.

JUDGE: Mr. Defense Attorney, will you call the first witness please?

(Defense attorney calls Mr. I. O. "Manny" Bucks and he is sworn in)

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Mr. Bucks, what has been your relationship to the defendant?

BUCKS: I know Ann well, (looking at the defendant) how you doin' girl? I don't buy this argument that she is responsible for hurting the economy. I don't buy anything I can't get on credit. That's why I dig Ms. Flation so much

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: What do you mean?

BUCKS: Well, see I buy lots of things. Last week I bought a brand new ride, man the ladies were all over me...

JUDGE: Mr. Bucks I suggest you stay on track or you'll meet Mr. Carter.

BUCKS: Oh, your right, my bad. See, the way I figure it, I buy all this stuff on credit. Later, when I pay it back, thanks to Ms. Flation over there, the dollars won't be worth as much as they are today. I look at it as kind of a long running discount, like buying a Benz at a Kia price.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Thank you Mr. Bucks, you can step down now.

(Ms. Iona Lotts is sworn in)

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Ms. Lotts, what sort of business are you in?

MS. LOTTS: I invest heavily in real estate. I purchased quite a bit of land, some apartment complex, and some houses I rented out several years ago, when Ms. Flation was just a mere child. The places I rent out in the Bay Area alone will put my kids through college.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: And have you found Ms. Flation to be cooperative in your real estate ventures?

MS. LOTTS: Most assuredly. My holdings are worth many times today what they were when I bought them. The return on my investment has grown tremendously, thanks to Ms. Flation. If it weren't for her, I might have put my money into a new business venture. While that might have done more than my real estate investments to help the economy grow, I can make more in a real estate investment. I don't feel it is my duty to provide charity. "Let the

economy take care of itself," is my motto. People should help themselves. Thanks to Ms. Flation, I'm helping myself quite a bit.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Is there any other way the defendant has helped you?

MS. LOTTS: Well, yes. I earned so much money renting out houses that I was able to buy some, fix them up a bit and flip them for a huge profit. In fact, I got so good at it that they are courting me for this new show on HGTV called Flip or Flop.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Thank you Miss Lotts. Good luck with the show. Your honor we would like to call Tiller Grower as our next witness.

(Tiller Grower is sworn in.)

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: What is your relationship with Miss Flation like.

TILLER GROWER: Well honestly, I NEED Miss Flation and when she is gone I am really hurting. (He cries a few tears). It's kind of like that match made in heaven and when she is gone. I...(he sobs again)

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: I appreciate your feelings for Ms. Flation, Mr. Grower, but can you tell me why you need her so much?

TILLER GROWER: Well, we buy our equipment and seed for the season before the planting season and pay back the banks the money we owe at the season's end. If prices don't rise than we can't sell our product for enough. On top of that, when Ann is around, (he turns to her and says:) come back to me girl, the money we've borrowed from the bank is much easier to pay back because there is more money in the economy. Come back to me, Ann...he starts crying again.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Thank you Mr. Grower. Your honor we have one final witness.

(Ms. Ann Flation is sworn in.)

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Ms, Flation, we have heard some serious allegations here today. Now, we would like to hear your side of the story.

MS. FLATION: It started out innocently enough...some hikes in price here, more spending there, wage increases. Pretty soon it was out of control. I was caught in a wage-price spiral. Demand pulled on one side of me; cost pushed on the other. People started expecting me to increase, and that made them act crazy. I think that has been the hardest thing for me, everyone's expectations. I'm just caught doing what they expect me to do. Producers raise their prices, workers want higher prices, other business costs go way up, and prices do too. It's hard for many people to keep up. The banks and the government get into action; but nothing seems to make any difference. As I say, I should not be held responsible. Circumstances are beyond my control.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Thank you Ms. Flation. Your honor, the defense rests.

JUDGE: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you have heard the testimony. What is your verdict?

(Jury deliberates)

JURY: Your honor, we have reached a decision.

Judge: Will the defendant please rise.

JURY: Our economy needs to be strong:

Inflation has gone on too long.

The verdict your honor,

This girl is a goner,

The Jury finds her in the wrong.

JUDGE: The sentence is 20 months of **tight money policy**.