

We see Snowden doing his piece to camera on the monitors around the studio and in the auditorium.

DIRECTOR

Cue Jack.

SNOWDEN

(on monitor)

Howard, the first attempt on President Ford's life was seventeen days ago, and again today in San Francisco. ~~In spite of two attempts, Mr Ford said in a press conference he will not become A prisoner of the Oval Office~~

All the while a Technical Director does a countdown whilst Snowden's report is on air.

We also hear the conversation in the Control Room

DIRECTOR

Shelia, do 'ya wanna get a drink later?

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

I can't I said I'd see Jeff from downstairs.

HARRY HUNTER

Jeff!? You realize he's a married man.

~~PRODUCTION ASSISTANT~~

~~I happen to like married men.~~

~~HARRY HUNTER~~

~~Shelia, if you are so hot for married men - why go to strangers? What's wrong with me?~~

~~SNOWDEN~~

~~(on monitor)~~

~~A hostage of would be assassins...~~

~~PRODUCTION ASSISTANT~~

~~Headroll... counting.... ten, nine, eight...~~

~~PRESIDENT FORD~~

~~(on monitor)~~

~~The American people are good people Democrats, Independents, Republicans and others Under no circumstances will I capitulate to those who want to undercut all that's good in America~~

DIRECTOR

Clear make up. Clear sound.

10.

FLOOR MANAGER
Make up clear. Sound clear.

~~PRODUCTION ASSISTANT~~
~~Seven, six, five, four, three, (two,~~
~~one).~~

The Floor Manager points to Howard. He's back on air.

HOWARD
Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like at this moment to announce that I will be retiring from this program in two weeks time because of poor ratings ..

DIRECTOR
Pull out to A camera. (snaps)

HOWARD
But since this show was the only thing I had going for me in my life, I have decided to kill myself...

HOWARD (CONT'D)
I'm going to blow my brains out right on this program a week from today.

DIRECTOR
And cut to B camera... (snaps) Now.

~~PRODUCTION ASSISTANT~~
~~Ten seconds to commercial. Nine, eight,~~
~~seven..etc...~~

HOWARD
So tune in next Monday. That'll give the public relations people a week to promote the show. It ought to get a hell of a rating, a fifty share at least.

~~PRODUCTION ASSISTANT~~
~~...three, two, one.~~

DIRECTOR
And commercial break. Cue VT A. Thank you, Howard. *Come on, just one drink won't harm you.*

FLOOR MANAGER
Jesus Christ. Did you hear what he said?

The ad for cat food is playing. Howard calmly takes a glass of water.

DIRECTOR
What?

11.

FLOOR MANAGER

Howard just said he was going to blow his brains out.

DIRECTOR

What are you talking about?

FLOOR MANAGER

Didn't you hear him?

HARRY HUNTER

Are you serious?

FLOOR MANAGER

Howard just said he was going to kill himself on the show next Monday.

DIRECTOR

What do you mean he said he was going to kill himself next Monday?

HARRY HUNTER

He was supposed to do a tag on Ron Neeson and go to commercial.

DIRECTOR

Howard, Did you say you were going to kill yourself on the air?

HOWARD

Yes.

HARRY HUNTER

(through the address system)

What the fuck is going on Howard?

Howard fiddles with his ear piece.

~~HOWARD~~

~~I can't hear you?~~

~~FLOOR MANAGER~~

~~They want to know what the fuck is going on Howard.~~

~~HOWARD~~

~~Can I have more water?~~

~~PRODUCTION ASSISTANT~~

~~We are on air in thirty seconds.~~

~~Harry Hunter runs into the studio from the control booth.~~

~~HARRY HUNTER~~

~~Jesus Christ, Howard. Is this some kind of joke?~~

12.

HOWARD

No. I am going to kill myself on air
next Monday.

~~HARRY HUNTER~~

~~What the hell's going on, Howard, have
you completely lost the plot?~~

~~FLOOR MANAGER~~

~~What d'ya want me to do?~~

DIRECTOR

We've still got to do the Ron Neeson tag
and the piece on Iran. What the fuck's
going on out there?

HOWARD

I don't see what all the fuss is about.

~~PRODUCTION ASSISTANT~~

~~Fifteen seconds~~

~~HARRY HUNTER~~

~~I think we have to get him off.
Howard, I'm afraid we'll have to take you
off.~~

~~HOWARD~~

~~I am not going anywhere.~~

~~HARRY HUNTER~~

~~Howard, I am asking you to step down from
the chair.~~

~~HOWARD~~

~~Absolutely not. I am reading the news.~~

~~PRODUCTION ASSISTANT~~

~~Ten seconds and counting -~~

~~She counts down over~~

FLOOR MANAGER

What the hell are we gonna do?

DIRECTOR

Ready A camera...ready sound

HARRY HUNTER

What the fuck are you doing Howard? Get
off that seat.

DIRECTOR

Someone tell me what the
hell is going on out there.
We're back on the air in
six seconds!

~~HARRY HUNTER (CONT'D)~~

~~I am the Associate Producer
of this programme and I
order you to stand down.~~