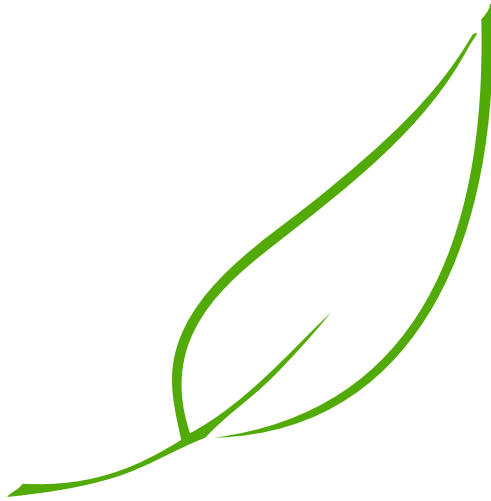


I PROTEST

by Robert L. Crowe



GREEN ROOM PRESS

greenroompress.com

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Green Room Press. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Green Room Press. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Green Room Press. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Green Room Press.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Green Room Press.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Green Room Press.

I PROTEST
by Robert L. Crowe

I PROTEST

by Robert L. Crowe

There are 2 chairs at stage center. Chris, a nervous and intense person, is on one side of the stage and Alex, a very calm and casual person, is on the other side. They are unaware of each other. They are parading, holding signs and yelling at people and traffic going by.

CRIS: Big business must go! Employers are the curse of the working class.

ALEX: (*casually*) Hey, there. If you get a chance, Vote “No.”

CRIS: Corporations are ruining our lives. Go. Go!

ALEX: Vote “No.” But if you don’t want to, that’s OK, too.

CRIS: They must go. (*chants*) You must know that they must go.

ALEX: Think it over. Vote “No” ... unless you have a better idea.

CRIS: Go!

ALEX: No!

(They stop and look at each other for the first time. They walk to stage center.)

CRIS: Oh. Hello.

ALEX: Hi, there.

CRIS: How you doin’?

ALEX: I’m tired. (*puts down placard*) I think I’ll sitdown a minute.

CRIS: Me, too. Good idea. How’s it going?

ALEX: I don’t know. Some days I wonder if anyone is paying attention.

CRIS: Isn’t that the truth? Most people don’t realize how difficult our job is.

ALEX: What are you protesting?

CRIS: The scourge of big business. Do you realize how the giant corporations are controlling our lives? They

control the money, the jobs, the political candidates ... everything! We must bring attention to the puppet-like manipulation that these greedy conglomerates are wielding.

ALEX: Oh. Do you work in big business?

CRIS: I used to. One day my boss called me in and told me I was no longer with the company. "How can you do this?" I asked. "I've been with the company 7 years. I worked and toiled for the company 7 days a week. You have treated me like a slave. Like a slave! How can you fire me?" "Oh, I'm not firing you," he said. "I sold you." (*pause*) It was his idea of humor. Not so funny.

ALEX: That's too bad.

CRIS: And another thing, when I was hired he told me I'd get sick pay. When I opened my first paycheck, sure enough, I got sick.

ALEX: Oh.

CRIS: We had to work overtime ... all the time ... and never got any extra pay.

ALEX: I had an uncle who worked in a distillery. When they worked overtime, they got time and a fifth. He's the one who told me that excessive drinking was bad for your memory ... or your liver. He couldn't remember which one.

CRIS: You ever work in big business?

ALEX: Oh, sure. I've worked in a lot of businesses. Some not so big, though. I was most recently with an accounting firm. It was the "LB and C Company."

CRIS: LB&C?

ALEX: Laid Back and Cool. Their accounting motto was: "Hey, man. Close enough."

CRIS: That doesn't sound very professional. They still in business?

ALEX: No. One of the partners took all the money and went to South America. We should have suspected something. All of his personal checks had pictures of Argentina.

CRIS: Our cause is very professional. Very well organized. We have a slogan and a song. Our slogan is: Take all the

money away from the capitalists and return it to the common people so we can live happily ever after.

ALEX: That's a catchy slogan.

CRIS: Wanna hear our theme song?

ALEX: Not right at this time.

CRIS: Do you have a slogan?

ALEX: Oh, sure.

CRIS: What is it?

ALEX: "No."

CRIS: That's it? That's the slogan? "No?"

ALEX: Yes.

CRIS: That's not an acceptable slogan. It doesn't convey any meaning. It doesn't ... capture ... the essence of your position.

ALEX: We found it fits every situation and people seem to remember it.

CRIS: Hey. Why don't you come with me next weekend. I'll show you some great slogans and you can copy one for your cause. It's a nationwide protest. We all go to the nearest big city and we take tents ... and cookout ... and sing protest songs.

ALEX: Sounds like a Boy Scout camping trip.

CRIS: It's big. Really big. We can feel the excitement and the unity of a nation demanding change. By the way, I forgot to ask. What are you protesting?

ALEX: I don't know.

CRIS: (*stands*) What? You don't know?

ALEX: Nope. I work for a firm and we protest things. Someone hires us and we protest whatever they want. I forget what it is today.

CRIS: You mean you sell your soul to the highest bidder?

ALEX: No. I sell my pole to the highest bidder.

CRIS: Huh?

ALEX: That's my pole. (*points to sign*) We each have our own pole and we just change the sign at the top.

CRIS: You mean to tell me that you are protesting something and don't care? You have no feeling for an



GREEN ROOM PRESS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

I PROTEST

by Robert L. Crowe.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

GREEN ROOM PRESS, INC.

customerservice@greenroompress.com

www.greenroompress.com