

LOCKSPROCKET FILES

We encounter our favorite physician toiling away at his hand operated printing press. Reams of freshly inked paper are stacked randomly about and an air of conspiracy permeates the place. Dr. L glances up with a start and his hand is quickly thrust inside his ominously bulging shop coat. A look of recognition comes over his face and his hand withdraws...empty.

Accompanying us on our undercover mission is Clarence L. Underwood, spokesman for the Citizens Organization for Mandatory Everything. (C.O.M.E.) As a precaution, Mr. Underwood has been blindfolded and driven around in circles for several hours to preserve the secrecy of the headquarters and to ensure that he would be as disoriented as Dr. Locksprocket.

The Doctor speaks:

Dr. Locksprocket: Security has been too lax, of late. I've taken to carrying my "Bernie Goetz" special to work. The way things have been going, a guy can never tell when he may have to defend his last liberty. Who's the clown with the bag over his head? Not another blind date for Gary!

Clarence L. Underwood: I am Clarence L. Underwood of Citizens Organization for Mandatory Everything. I've come to talk terms.

Dr. L.: Terms? Oh, good. You've finally decided to get out of our lives and let us make our own decisions.

CLU: Uhh, no...not exactly. We thought that you would be ready to surrender. After all, we do have you surrounded. Now that we

have the auto manufacturers on our side, we figured that you'd just go along peacefully. It's for your own good, you know.

Dr. L.: That's what I hear. I must admit that I find it rather flattering that you guys go so far out of your way to look out for my welfare. You fairly reek of altruism. It's nice to know that Big Brother survived 1984.

CLU: I trust that I won't have to sit through another speech about "individual rights". You should know that that stuff went out with the frontier. This macho stuff just has to stop.

DR. L.: Speaking of money, (we were speaking of money, weren't we) where does your "citizens" group get their funding?

CLU: Uhh...ummm...mostly contributions from private industry...uhh...umm...

Dr. L.: Go on. Spit it out! You mean the auto industry. The guys who are trying to get out of their responsibility to build safe cars by putting the burden on us.

CLU: Just think of all the lives that will be saved by this law.

Dr. L.: Lives will be saved only if people obey the law. A little drive on the freeway will show you how well the 55 MPH speed limit is being observed. Just what we need. A whole new class of criminals created at the stroke of the pen.

At this point Mr. Underwood is summarily condemned to 20 years of continuous listening to Ronald Reagan speeches about getting the government off the people's backs, and Dr. L. resumes printing his latest hit: To Lynch A Legislator.