

YOU'RE A WOMAN
LOOK 'EM IN THE EYE
GIRL . . .

MISS MONA.
YOU'RE A WOMAN
STARTIN' ON YOUR WAY . . .

(Music of song finishes without last line being sung.)

BLACKOUT

ACT ONE

SCENE 4

An "ON THE AIR" sign is lit, denoting a television studio. The DOGETTES begin to sing the introduction to MELVIN P. THORPE's TV show.

ANNOUNCER. *(Voice over.)* And now station K-T-E-X, that's, KTEX-TV is proud to present . . . that watchdog man himself . . . the eyes and ears of Texas . . . Melvin Pee Thorpe!

(As MELVIN P. THORPE enters. HE is wearing a preposterous silver wig and a broad holier-than-thou smile. HE is a man of rapidly shifting moods—a preacher type with Show Business instincts masquerading as a newsman. HE holds his hands in the air acknowledging the CROWD cheers which are recorded. An ASSISTANT holds an "APPLAUSE" sign off camera and exhorts the CROWD to participate. The MELVIN P. THORPE SINGERS and the DOGETTES begin to drift Onstage during this opening monologue taking positions at microphones off camera and THEY react to the signs that the ASSISTANT holds up.)

MELVIN. Arf arf arf. Rrww, rrww. Thank you, Texans. And welcome to "Watchdog," with yours truly, Meelvin P. Thorpe, keeping an eye on what's goin' on in this beautiful State of ours. I have some very good news for you people. Last week's culprit has been brought to task! The makers of the Peanut Delight Candy Bar, caught in "Watchdog's Spotlight" have admitted that they put less peanuts in each bar than they advertise!

START

(The ASSISTANT holds up a "Boo" sign. The DOGETTES "Boo".)

MELVIN. (Continued.) But they have promised to mend their ways so from now on you can keep munchin' those Peanut Delights thanks to . . . WATCHDOG.

(Sign held up reads in two parts "Hoo" and "RAY".)

MELVIN. (Continued.) But don't forget to count your nuts!

(Sign "LAUGH—HA! HA!" THEY laugh.)

MELVIN. (Continued.) And now, neighbors, we have really come up with one this time. This week's Spotlight will shine on a situation that has been allowed to exist right in the shadows of the State Capitol! I'm talkin' about the Chicken Ranch, my friends . . .

DOGETTES. Oooow.

MELVIN. That's right and for those of you who don't know what is being sold out there in that innocent lookin' little town of Gilbert, presided over by that pseudo-righteous Sheriff, Ed Earl Dodd . . . I'll be as discreet as I can. A woman known only as Miss Mona is runnin' a house of ill repute.

DOGETTES.

OH NO!

MELVIN. That's about as mild as I can make it, friends. But why don't we just call it what it is? Let's get this thing out in the open. Isn't this the age of tellin' it like it is?

DOGETTES & MELVIN P. THORPE SINGERS. (Spoken.)

AMEN, AMEN!

HALLELUJAH

"TEXAS HAS A WHOREHOUSE IN IT"

MELVIN. Well, here goes and God forgive me. (Spoken.)

TEXAS HAS A WHOREHOUSE IN IT!

(MELVIN claps his hand over his mouth.)

DOGETTES/M. P. THORPE SINGERS.

LORD HAVE MERCY ON OUR SOULS!

MELVIN.

TEXAS HAS A WHOREHOUSE IN IT!

DOGETTES/M. P. THORPE SINGERS.

LORD HAVE MERCY ON OUR SOULS!

MELVIN.

I'LL EXPOSE THE FACTS

END