BOB: And now, ladies and gentlemen, it’s time for one of the most eagerly awaited features on the Bob and Ray show – one that always fills a much-needed gap: Bob and Ray’s *News in Depth*.

WHARTNEY: Thank you. Everybody in Washington watches your show.

BOB: Thank you. We’re very glad to hear that.

WHARTNEY: Now, I’ve taken the liberty to go ahead to prepare some questions and answers here so that there will be no misunderstanding as to the function of my office and just what it is we do down there in Washington. Here’s our script.

BOB: Well, I was just going to fire away questions off the cuff.

WHARTNEY: It will be easier this way. Now where it says “Bob” – that’s for you, see . . . and I have the answers written down here.

BOB: All right, Hap. *(He reads)*

*There seems to be some confusion in many circles as to the responsibility of the World Bank vis-à-vis as to the Federal Reserve Board and Bank. Could you clear it up for us?*

WHARTNEY: I’m glad you asked me that question. The Federal Reserve Board is a semi-quasi-governmental agency that operates the Federal Reserve Bank and also proposes interest rates that member institutions should charge.

BOB: And the World Bank?

WHARTNEY: I was getting to that. The World Bank’s function is to loan money, capital, that is, to emerging nations to encourage their growth. Next question?

BOB: As I understand it, the interest rate charged by banks has a definite relationship to the prime interest rate suggested by the Federal Reserve Bank.

WHARTNEY: That’s not even a question. I think I know what you’re trying to ask, though. Member banks borrow money at little or no interest in order to have funds to lend to business and individuals at prime rates.
BOB: You certainly know your subject matter. Allow me to congratulate you. So many of my guests come here and don’t seem to be familiar with their own jobs.

WHARTNEY: That is very kind of you. We at Interbureau Coordination pride ourselves on our complete dedication to the serious responsibility that is squarely placed on us. I’m sure our broad shoulders will more than bear up under the tremendous pressure.

BOB: I want to thank you, Mr. Whartney, for coming here tonight, and so brilliantly describing your office and its functions. You have spruced up an otherwise ordinary program.

WHARTNEY: You are more than kind, and I might add, very discerning.

BOB: I want you to know the welcome mat is always down for you, Mr. Whartney, and the door is always open. Good guests like you are hard to come by.

WHARTNEY: Thank you, and goodnight.

BOB: We now switch to anchorman Wally Ballou, of the Bob and Ray election coverage team, who has just predicted defeat for candidate Neil A. Sturbush in the race for county commissioner. What makes this interesting is the fact that Mr. Sturbush spent more money in waging his campaign than any office seeker ever spent before. Let’s go right now to Sturbush headquarters for what will undoubtedly be a speech of concession . . .

(Convention background)

STURBUSH: Would you all simmer down out there please . . . Simmer down.

(The sound fades)

STURBUSH: I guess you all heard Mr. Ballou when I did. He’s predicted my defeat; I guess I lost. Well . . . those things will happen. I’d like to say a few words if I may . . . I know that after my opponent has been in office a couple of months . . . the people will come to me and say . . . I wish now I had voted for you, Sturbush. He’s a bum – you’re okay. Won’t you please run again? You know what I’m going to say to them? NUTS! You had your chance to vote for me and you didn’t – NUTS! I’m not going to run again. I’ve spent a fortune in television and radio. All I have left is what I’ve got in my pocket. In conclusion, I’d like to say one thing . . . You’re just not going to have Neil Sturbush to kick around any more!

(Convention sounds up again)

RAY: Now to analyze Mr. Sturbush’s speech, here is the Bob and Ray News in Depth specialist – David Chetley. David . . .
CHETLEY: In exactly one hundred and fifty words, Neil A. Sturbush has left little doubt that he has lost this race . . . and further, that he does not intend to run again. With some degree of circumlocutory skill, he has couched the absinthian vehemence of his address in a periphrastic bit of casuistry, which is paralogistic on the one hand, and incapacious on the other. Indeed, his jeremiad – his threnody – call it what you will – can only be accepted for what it is: an atrabilious amphigory. This is David Chetley.

RAY: Thank you, David. You took the words right out of my mouth!

RAY: Now – we have been asked to make the following announcement by the Treasury Department. Citizens, our money is your money. We print it for you to use. It is for your convenience. Make more use of money. It’s handy, it’s dependable, it’s trustworthy. Money orders, checks, bank drafts, credit cards are good in their way, but money is better. It is easy to carry, transfers quickly, and is soft to the touch. It comes in a lovely green color, which is pleasant to the eye. It has pleasing pictures on it of Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, Andrew Jackson, and the White House. The numbers are large and clearly legible. If you want money, just write and tell us how much and in what denominations. Use money every day. It’s the American way!

(Patriotic music)

BOB: And now back to News in Depth, and another guest. The story of this man’s trial has been front page news in papers across the country these past few weeks. He is the corrupt Mayor of Skunk Haven, New Jersey – Mayor Ralph Moody Thayer . . . Mayor Thayer . . .

THAYER: Thank you.

BOB: Is the jury still out, by the way?

THAYER: Yes, it is. But my attorney is negotiating with the foreman of that august group now, and we feel we have nothing to fear. We believe that you can attract more flies with honey than you can with vinegar.

BOB: Mayor Thayer, to go back over your checkered career . . . You were a petty forger, a master swindler, a convicted embezzler . . .

THAYER: And convicted of perjury several times.

BOB: How does one start on a life of corruption such as you have built for yourself?

THAYER: Oh, I guess it started when I was a kid. I used to cheat in exams in grade school. I used to tell malicious lies about my fellow students to the teacher. You see, I’ve always believed I could build myself up by tearing somebody else down.

BOB: Now after your formal schooling was completed, I think you developed an interest in financial matters . . . money lending . . .

THAYER: Loan sharking.

BOB: Yes.
THAYER: I did that for several years until the criminal element in town asked me to run for public office. I took that as a mandate.

BOB: I remember that first election. It still stands as the crookedest election in Skunk Haven’s history.

THAYER: Thank you.

BOB: And from then on, it was all downhill, really . . . Over the years you’ve riddled every department of your administration with corruption. All the way from the top to, well, right on through to the Visiting Nurse Association. I’d like to ask you a final question, Mr. Mayor, and don’t answer right away. Give it some thought, if you will. Would you say it’s easier to be corrupt today, than it was, say, ten . . . even fifteen years ago?

THAYER: Oh my, yes! You see, ten or fifteen years ago, it was a disgrace to be corrupt. Now it’s a very fertile field. I recommend it to anybody with a devious mind, who is willing to put in long, long hours, without working hard. They will find it terribly enriching. Fully rewarding.

BOB: Well, I’m sure we will all be able to draw something from your words and I want to thank you very much for coming by. We will be anxious to hear what the jury decides when it comes back in.

THAYER: Don’t give it a thought! I’m not!

BOB: Thank you, Mayor Thayer . . . And thank you all for tuning into News in Depth. Before we go, however, let me remind you that . . .

RAY: The opinions expressed by our guests are their own – and do not necessarily represent the views of the Bob and Ray organization.

BOB: Also, they should not be construed as the opinion of this station . . . or its subscribers . . . or members of their families.

RAY: And it must also be remembered that questions asked by the panel are not designed to reflect any particular viewpoint.

BOB: We should mention, too, that our panel members are speaking only for themselves – and not as representatives of their employers or members of their families.

RAY: But in any event, this program is presented solely for the enjoyment of the viewing audience . . . and any rebroadcast or reuse without specific permission is prohibited.

BOB: Likewise, any admission charged by owners of TV sets for watching this broadcast is similarly prohibited.

RAY: The entire contents of this program remain the sole property of the Bob and Ray organization – and may not be used for any commercial purpose by the New York Jets – or the commissioner of the National Football League.

BOB: That includes reproduction in whole or in part, Ray.
RAY: Absolutely, Bob. However, it should be understood that portions of this program may have been recorded earlier for broadcast in this time period.

BOB: This is done solely for the convenience of our audience – and not for the purpose of editing or deleting controversial material.

RAY: In so doing, some passages that have been retained may be considered offensive by various ethnic groups or religious organizations.

BOB: Therefore, discretion is urged among members of such groups or organizations in listening to the material presented.

RAY: Parental guidance is also suggested. And in no case shall children under the age of sixteen be permitted to listen to this program.

BOB: This ruling applies not only to the public at large – but also to employees of this station and members of their families.

RAY: Any application for exemption from this order must be received in our office before midnight tonight.

BOB: On all such applications, the decision of the judges is final . . . and in case of duplication, ties will be awarded.

RAY: However, the awarding of all prizes is subject to availability. Substitutions for announced prizes may be made at the discretion of the Bob and Ray organization.

BOB: But in any case, at least half of this program must be completed in order for it to qualify as an official broadcast.

RAY: If less than half is completed for any reason, then the entire program will be rebroadcast from the beginning at a later date – as determined by the commissioner.

BOB: That’s correct. Now, was there anything else we wanted to add?

RAY: Yes, some of our departing guests will receive gift packages of our subscribers’ products.

BOB: I know they’ll enjoy that. Well, that brings us to the end of another broadcast day. Join us soon for another look at more controversial issues on News in Depth.

RAY: Research director for News in Depth: Carl J. “Fat” Chanz.

BOB: Our program director was O. Leo Leahy.

RAY: Producer: T. Wilson Messy. This was a Messy Production. Now, this is Ray Goulding, saying – wait a minute, folks – we have an important announcement! Don’t we, Bob?