OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DEH
A Large Eastern Army Post

Deputy DEH - That no good, worthless, goldbricking so-and-so! Horace, get in here!

Horace - Yes sir, Boss. What is it?

Deputy DEH - Horace, I'm sitting here looking at my weekend edition of the *Washington Post*. . . . And do you know what I see in here? D'ya, Horace, d'ya?

Horace - No, no sir. . . what, what d'ya see?

Deputy DEH - That low-life GS-7, Dan Doright, who calls himself a maintenance foreman has the gall to go to the papers and claim that we wasted over a million bucks buying those twenty new transformers that we bought to replace the old ones. He works for you, doesn't he Horace?

Horace - Well, uh, yes, yes sir he does.

Deputy DEH - Listen to what it says here. "Army employee blows whistle on waste at Fort Swampy. Claims one million dollars spent needlessly to replace twenty electrical transformers brought less than ten years ago at half the cost." And that's not all. Listen to what he says. "'The Commanding General, General Bluster, knows all about this,' Doright said. 'In fact, his cousin holds a large minority interest in the company.' Doright alleges that the transformer incident is 'just the tip of the iceberg. Just get me to the grand jury,' Doright said, 'and I'll prove that General Bluster is a conniving snake. . .'"--he called the Commanding General a snake!--"'. . .who'd sell his own mother to make a buck! Everyone who works in DEH is up to his neck in fraud, waste and abuse.'" That's us he's talking about, boy! What're you going to do about this? What do you know about this?

Horace - Well, uh, he's been working for us for about eighteen years and, uh, he knows the ropes, knows the system, knows how just to get by with the least effort. . . and he complains all the time.

Deputy DEH - Doright – "Donothing" would be a better name for him. What's he got to complain about, Horace?

Horace - Well. . . Just a minute, Boss. The uh. . . I got, I got a million of these examples. Just last week for example – that incinerator that's been down for about a month – I asked him to get in there and clean it out. And he refused to do it. Said he wouldn't do it without an oxygen tank, or some hose coming in from the outside. You know, he's. . . he's complaining all the

time. He complains about his labor union rights, and he talks to the other folks there about how they're suckers if they stay working one minute past an eight-hour day.

Deputy DEH - Tell me more about this, uh, incinerator deal, Horace.

Horace - I told him and two other workers to get in there and clean that out. The other two, they went in just fine, but, uh, he just wouldn't get in there. He, uh, he said he had to have a respirator, and when I said I wouldn't take any of that nonsense, he said he wanted to see his union representative and an OSHA inspector first.

Deputy DEH - OSHA, unions, the *Post* . . . He just loves to go after outsiders, doesn't he Horace?

Horace - Well, anyway, I wasn't going to take any of that, so I told him to get in there, or I was going to clock him out right then. You know what he said to me? He says, "Don't bother you pencil-necked geek. Shove it!" Can you imagine him saying that to me? Well, he took off, and I couldn't find him the rest of the afternoon. But, that's just one example. I've got 'em all written down here. He complains when he thinks rules aren't being followed right. Every little rule he wants to be followed. He curses me out regularly. He's disappeared. . . about five days out of the last three months. And Boss, I got it all written out right here.

Deputy DEH - Why haven't you done anything about all of this, Horace?

Horace - Well, Boss, I haven't gotten around to it yet.

Deputy DEH - Well, Doright certainly got around to taking care of us and General Bluster, hasn't he? Sounds to me like we got the makings of some serious offenses here: disobedience, disrespect, AWOL, and going outside of channels. I think we might have a 30-day suspension here, Horace.

Horace - Boss, I'd just like to get rid of him.

Deputy DEH - What we got here is a failure to communicate. We need to get his attention. You go on and get out of here, Horace, I'm going to get on back to work now.

Horace - Yes Sir. (Aside) You know it is a little strange that we bought those new transformers before the others were even ten years old.

THE END