

(BENEATHA exhales heavily, crosses L. and above table, picks up an orange from table.)

LINDNER. (with understated relief) Thank you. I would sort of like to explain this thing in my own way. I mean I want to explain in a certain way.

(BENEATHA begins tossing the orange up and down)

WALTER. Go ahead.

LINDNER. Yes. Well. I'm going to try to get right to the point. I'm sure we'll all appreciate that in the long run.

BENEATHA. Yes.

WALTER. Be still now!

(BENEATHA crosses R. above sofa, tossing the orange in the air.)

LINDNER. Well—

RUTH. (innocently still) Would you like another chair — you don't look comfortable.

LINDNER. (more frustrated than annoyed) ~~No, thank you very much. Please.~~ Well—to get right to the point I—(A great breath and he is off at last.) I am sure you people must be aware of some of the incidents that have happened when colored people move into certain areas—Well—because we have what I think is going to be a unique type of organization in American community life—not only do we deplore that kind of thing—but we are trying to do something about it. (WALTER gestures approvingly and BENEATHA halts with the tossing and turns with a new and quizzical interest to LINDNER. She crosses D.R. of sofa to U.L. of WALTER's

start

chair.) We feel—(gaining in confidence in his mission due to the interest in the faces of the people he is talking to) We feel that most of the trouble in this world, when you come right down to it—(He pounds his fist just a little for emphasis on his knee.) Most of the trouble exists because people just don't sit down and talk to each other.

RUTH. (~~nodding as she might in church, pleased with the remark~~) You can say that again, Mister.

LINDNER. (also more encouraged by such affirmation) That we don't try hard enough to understand the other fellow's problem. The other guy's point of view.

RUTH. ~~Now that's right. (WALTER gestures that LINDNER is right on target.)~~

LINDNER. Yes—and that's why I was elected to come here this afternoon and talk to you people and see if we couldn't find some way to work this thing out. Anybody can see that you are a nice family of folks, hard working and honest, I'm sure. Today everybody knows what it means to be an outsider. [And of course there is always somebody who is out to take advantage of people who don't understand.

WALTER. What do you mean? end

LINDNER. Well—you see our community is made up of people who've worked hard as the dickens for years to build up that little community. We're not rich and fancy people; just hard-working honest people who don't really have much but those little homes and a dream of the kind of community we want to raise our children in. Now I don't say we are perfect and there is a lot wrong in some of the things we want. But you've got to admit that a man, right or wrong, has the right to want to have the neighborhood he lives in a certain kind of way. And at the moment the overwhelming majority of our people out there feel that people get along better;