

2-6-31

ACT II

Scene 6

TIME: A few minutes later.

AT RISE: Madison Park. The Ice Cream Sociable. The last strains of "Rustle of Spring" are heard as the LADIES are concluding their Grecian Urn presentation.

EULALIE

Two Grecian Urns! And a fountain --

(There is mild applause. CHARLIE COWELL & MAYOR SHINN burst in among the Ladies)

SHINN

Stop, stop. Listen to this man!

CHARLIE

You gullible green-grass goats! Can't you get it through your heads that you're being swindled out'a your eye teeth right now -- this minute? There's a burglar in the bedroom while you're fiddling in the parlor! I'm talking about Harold Hill -- road agent -- highwayman -- pickpocket.

MAN #1

Pickpocket?

CHARLIE

Same thing! He's had his hand in your wallet, Mister, and yours, Madam, and yours, little lady, ever since the first moment he came to this town! There's more documented evidence than you'll ever have time to read! There isn't any band. there never has been any band and there never will be any band! And if you don't hunt this man down right now like a mad dog, there won't be any Harold Hill either! He'll be on the next train out of town.

SHINN

Now will you believe me?

MAN #2

Well what are we waiting for?

WOMAN

I want my money back!