

"BUILD A HOUSE"

by

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FADE IN:

MRS. GILMOUR, a PRESENTER, talks to her GUEST, MR. PURCELL.

CONTROLLER

All right, and... we're on in five.

GILMOUR

Right, thank you.

PURCELL

I'm expected a proper interview here, Mrs. Gilmour. No funny business.

GILMOUR

I think you'll find it fair.

PURCELL

This better not be all about -

But he's interrupted by a TV NEWS THEME PLAYING as they go back on the air.

GILMOUR

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us. I am here tonight with Mr. Martin Purcell, head of the Three Little Pigs Real Estate and Construction firm, and recently appointed Secretary of Forest Defense. Thank you for joining us.

PURCELL

My pleasure.

GILMOUR

Lets jump right in. Mr. Purcell, since your appointment you've come under fire from sections of the population for so-called "betrayals" of your campaign promises.

PURCELL

Well, eh, there's no need to use such melodramatic -

GILMOUR

But there have been, you have to admit, some policy changes since you took office.

PURCELL
Oh, would we call them, "changes?"

GILMOUR
I would.

PURCELL
I think that all we're discussing here are some slight... *adjustments*.

GILMOUR
Well, lets talk about your plan for forest border control. You are still planning to build a brick house to protect the citizens from the ravenous wolf population, correct?

BEAT.

PURCELL
Weeell...

GILMOUR
Oh, so you're not going to build a house?

PURCELL
No! No, no, no. Lets be absolutely clear about this: I am going to build a house, and it is going to be a great house.

GILMOUR
And it's going to be a brick house?

PURCELL
Absolu -

He TRAILS OFF. CLEARS his THROAT.

GILMOUR
Mr. Purcell? What was that?

PURCELL
Uh... yes, yes. We'll build the house out of bricks. And... other... brick-like materials.

GILMOUR
Brick... like?

PURCELL
Yes. Brick-like.

GILMOUR
For example...

PURCELL
Well, some portions of the house
may - may, nothing has been decided
yet - be made out of... sticks.

GILMOUR
Sticks?

PURCELL
Yep, yep, some very sturdy and very
durable sticks. And some -
(clears throat)
- straw.

GILMOUR
Straw? But haven't you been quoted
as saying -

PURCELL
I don't know if that's -

GILMOUR
- that sticks and straw are
extremely vulnerable to illegal
huffing and puffing?

PURCELL
That's not really relevant to -

GILMOUR
But relevant or not, it is what you
said.

PURCELL
It doesn't matter what I said! The
important thing is that we are
evaluating the security needs of
the forest very carefully and
trying to determine the best
materials for the house. That's
all.

GILMOUR
But you would accept sticks? And
straw?

PURCELL
Uhhh, for - for certain rooms, I
would. Absolutely.

GILMOUR
So part brick, part sticks and
straw?

PURCELL
Ye - sure.

GILMOUR
But I'm going to have to press you
here: if a wolf were to attempt to
huff and puff -

PURCELL
I don't - I don't know why people
have this fixation on wolves,
anyway!

BEAT.

GILMOUR
You're... you're not serious, are
you?

PURCELL
No, I'm not! I don't know why the
forest citizens are so scared of
the wolf population.

GILMOUR
I think it's because you told them
that -

PURCELL
I really don't think that -

GILMOUR
You said they were dangerous
predators.

PURCELL
Those comments were taken out of -

GILMOUR
You spent a year calling them the
Big, Bad -

PURCELL
I always said that some of them
were good animals! People never
remember that I -

GILMOUR

You said they were going to eat -

PURCELL

ALL RIGHT!

(BEAT)

Look: this is, uh, this is not a simple issue. This is a very complicated forest, and you get a little bit of everything. There are definitely some bad wolves out there, and there's definitely some good wolves out there. The important thing is not to get fixated on who said what yesterday, and to not become entrenched in outdated positions. Now that I am in public service, I want to do my best for all the animals of the forest, and that means keeping an open mind about different possibilities and having an evolving position. All right?

GILMOUR

Oh, fair enough. I'd like to move on and discuss your political rival, Little Red Riding Hood. Recent polls show strong support for her "Heroic Woodsman" initiative. Would you consider working with - ?

PURCELL

NOT BY THE HAIRS OF MY CHINNY-CHIN-CHIN!

FADE OUT.