

**WILLY**, *leaping away with fright, shouting*: Ha! Howard! Howard! Howard!

**HOWARD**, *rushing in*: What happened?

**WILLY**, *pointing at the machine, which continues nasally, childishly, with the capital cities*: Shut it off! Shut it off!

**HOWARD**, *pulling the plug out*: Look, Willy . . .

**WILLY**, *pressing his hands to his eyes*: I gotta get myself some coffee. I'll get some coffee . . .

*Willy starts to walk out. Howard stops him.*

**HOWARD**, *rolling up the cord*: Willy, look . . .

**WILLY**: I'll go to Boston.

**HOWARD**: Willy, you can't go to Boston for us.

**WILLY**: Why can't I go?

**HOWARD**: I don't want you to represent us. I've been meaning to tell you for a long time now.

**WILLY**: Howard, are you firing me?

**HOWARD**: I think you need a good long rest, Willy.

**WILLY**: Howard—

**HOWARD**: And when you feel better, come back, and we'll see if we can work something out.

**WILLY**: But I gotta earn money, Howard. I'm in no position to—

**HOWARD**: Where are your sons? Why don't your sons give you a hand?

**WILLY**: They're working on a very big deal.

**HOWARD**: This is no time for false pride, Willy. You go to your sons and you tell them that you're tired. You've got two great boys, haven't you?

WILLY: Oh, no question, no question, but in the meantime . . .

HOWARD: Then that's that, heh?

WILLY: All right, I'll go to Boston tomorrow.

HOWARD: No, no.

WILLY: I can't throw myself on my sons. I'm not a cripple!

HOWARD: Look, kid, I'm busy this morning.

WILLY, *grasping Howard's arm*: Howard, you've got to let me go to Boston!

HOWARD, *hard, keeping himself under control*: I've got a line of people to see this morning. Sit down, take five minutes, and pull yourself together, and then go home, will ya? I need the office, Willy. *He starts to go, turns, remembering the recorder, starts to push off the table holding the recorder.* Oh, yeah. Whenever you can this week, stop by and drop off the samples. You'll feel better, Willy, and then come back and we'll talk. Pull yourself together, kid, there's people outside.