

## SYNOPSIS

*Waiting for Lefty* consists of a series of six scenes. Each of scenes portrays the conditions of employees in different circumstances. This play uses flashback style to narrate the story. The story unfolds from the union meeting then turns to the personal experience of the union members and ends up in the union.

In the meeting, the leader of the taxi drivers union named Harry Fatt, who is protected by a gunman talks to the members who seat in semicircle. He convinces them that the several workers' strikes from different sectors are fail, so it is better to stand behind the man in the White House rather than go to strike. All the members are skeptical with Fatt's utterance. A man bravely mocks his idea, and then Fatt calls him red.

The meeting becomes a commotion when the members ask about Lefty, the elected strike leader. Fatt names the men in the semicircle, among them Doctor Benjamin and Miller as the answer of their query. When Joe, one of the taxi drivers comes to the front, Fatt labels him red. Joe defends that he is not a 'red' boy. He only wants to tell his experience. His wife, Edna convinced him last week to strike. She claims that he is working for the company not for her or the family. Joe wants to strike for higher wage necessary.

Joe valiantly compares the wealth of the leader with the poverty of the employees. The employees likes him has a hard life. He stays at small rented home. His wages cannot cover his daily needs moreover rents big home. He often argues with his wife, Edna because of his poverty. Edna cannot bear with that

condition and encourages Joe to change their condition. She suggests him to strike like her father did, but Joe reluctantly responds her suggestion. He claims that the strikes do not work and they lose the money during they are on the strike. Edna responds his remark sharply. She criticizes Joe's company and union. She calls Joe's union is rotten, yet this critic does not wake him up. Joe is awake when Edna threatens him to back to her old boy friend who has a better living.

Joe's experience is different with Miller's experience. Miller is a talented laboratory assistant work for Fayette. Fayette tells him that he is receiving a raise, thus he will be switched to new laboratory tomorrow where he will work under an important chemist Doctor Brenner. Miller is very pleased, but when he knows his new jobs are creating poisonous gas for new war and spying on the chemist progress he refuses the raise. He is better leaving his job and finding another job.

Sid is also a taxi driver like Joe. He is in love with Florence. This relationship is disapproved by her brother, Irv and mother because he is only a taxi driver who makes little money. They assume Sid as the rat poisonous of the family. She ignores Irv's warn. She needs more from life. She wants romance, love, and babies, but poverty is handicapped her will. They cannot get married.

Fatt knows that several employees in the union get problem in the workplace and propose to go strike to solve that problem. Fatt rejects it. He brings up Tom Clayton who was in the unsuccessful strike to convince the members. He bets with the members if the strike would help, he would be with them, but his experience has taught him that Fatt is right this time. Unfortunately a man knows his real identity. He says that Clayton's real name is Clancy and he is a rat, a

company spy, who has been breaking up the unions in various fields, he then chase away Clayton.

Doctor Benjamin is a white collar employee who is fired because he is a Jew. The replacement of his position in hysterectomy operation is the sign of the fire. He has been replaced for surgery on a woman in critical condition by incompetent doctor named Leeds, the nephew of the Senator Leeds. He does not mind being replaced; he hates the service of the hospital that disparages the poor patient. Doctor Barnes informs him the newest policy of the hospital. He tells Benjamin the board directors of the hospital decide to close the program of charity ward and fire some stuffs including Benjamin. Benjamin assumes he is losing his job because he is Jewish. Benjamin is disappointed toward the hospital policy and America. He thinks to go to Russia to work in their socialized medicine, but then he decides to work on America and probably get a job such as driving a taxi to allow him to keep studying medicine. He vows to fight though it may mean death.

The situation in the union is more crowded. Agate persuades the members. He talks them to ignore red tag if they want to strike to change the conditions. Fatt and gunman detain him, but he fights against them. With fiery oration Agate talks to the taxi drivers to unite and fight and not to wait for Lefty who may never come. When a man runs into and says they just found Lefty shot and dead, Agate yells to his fellow "WORKERS OF THE WORLD" and urges them to die to "make a new world". He leads them in a chorus to strike.