

RS#4 Willy & Charley

Start



WILLY. (*Grunts.*) Yeah!

(*Happy exits upstairs.*)

What're you doin' up?

CHARLEY. (*Crossing to chair L. of table.*) Couldn't sleep good. I had a heartburn.

WILLY. Well, you don't know how to eat.

CHARLEY. I eat with my mouth.

WILLY. No, you're ignorant. You gotta know about vitamins and things like that.

CHARLEY. (*Sits chair L. of table.*) Come on, let's shoot? Tire you out a little.

WILLY. (*Hesitates.*) All right, you got cards? (*Sits R. of table.*)

CHARLEY. (*Taking cards from his pocket.*) Yeah, I got them. Some place. What is it with those vitamins? (*Trying to take Willy's mind off his trouble.*)

WILLY. They build up your bones. Chemistry.

CHARLEY. Yeah, but there's no bones in a heartburn.

(*Charley deals cards. Four cards to Willy, four to himself, four face up on table.*)

WILLY. What are you talkin' about? Do you know the first thing about it?

CHARLEY. Don't get insulted.

WILLY. Don't talk about something you don't know anything about. (*They are ready to play. Pause.*)

CHARLEY. What're you doin' home?

WILLY. A little trouble with the car. (*Throws one card.*)

CHARLEY. Oh. (*Pause.*) I'd like to take a trip to California. (*Takes a trick.*)

WILLY. Don't say. (*Throws one card.*)

CHARLEY. (*Bends forward, fussing with cards on table.*) You want a job? (*Looks up at him.*)

WILLY. I got a job, I told you that. (*Looks suspiciously at Charley. Slight pause.*) What the hell are you offering me a job for?

CHARLEY. Don't get insulted.

WILLY. Don't insult me.

CHARLEY. I don't see no sense in it. (*Throws one card.*) You don't have to go on this way.

WILLY. (*Strong.*) I got a good job. (*Slight pause.*) What do you keep comin' in here for?

CHARLEY. You want me to go? (*Throws cards down—starts up.*) (*Willy leans across table, grabs Charley's arm. Pause.*)

WILLY. (*Withering.*) Charley, I can't understand it. He's going back to Texas again. What the hell is that?

CHARLEY. Let him go.

WILLY. I got nothin' to give him, Charley, I'm clean, I'm clean.

CHARLEY. He won't starve. None a them starve. Forget about him.

WILLY. Then what have I got to remember?



End