

**ACT 1****SCENE 1.1****SFX CROWDS CHEERING / TRUMPETS/ MUSIC**

1.1920s REPORTER Jubilation in the streets on this bright sunny day in 1921. The signing of Anglo-Irish Treaty finally puts an end to years of fighting between British and Irish forces and cements the idea of 'partition'!<sup>2</sup> Two states have been formed on the island of Ireland - one in the south called the 'Irish Free State', leaving the United Kingdom - goodbye folks! And one in the north called 'Northern Ireland', which remains part of the UK. They are separated by a border, which stretches over 300 miles, cutting through communities, roads and even through houses. But don't worry chaps! It's only temporary!<sup>3</sup> A new border line - a more sensible solution - is to be agreed by a 'Boundary Commission', which will undertake the easy task of fixing the problem. I'm sure it will be all over by Christmas!

**SCENE 1.2**                      **BOUNDARY COMMISSION LAUNCH EVENT****FX: Crowds cheering, feedback on an old mic.**

1.     MACNEILL     Hello Ulster!
  
2.     ULSTER PEOPLE Wayyyy!!!!
  
3.     MACNEILL     Thank you all for coming to this launch event for the  
Boundary Commission. I know, it's taken some time for  
us to get started...
  
4.     PAUL:            Four blooming years!
  
5.     MACNEILL     I know, I know! It's been four years since we were  
supposed to begin, as the Northern Ireland government  
refused to cooperate... and of course, the Irish Civil War  
was a bit of a distraction! But we're here now! You may  
be wondering who I am? Well, my name is Eoin  
MacNeill. I'm the representative for the Southern Free  
State and I'm very much hoping for large transfers of  
northern territory to the south.<sup>4</sup>
  
6.     CROWD:          Yayyy!!!!/ Booooo!!!!
  
7.     MACNEILL     It's so great to be back - I'm from the North Coast  
originally - and such a privilege to be here at the ancient  
site of Emain Mhaca, the capital of the Ulaidh, Home of  
Cú Chulainn and the Red Branch Knights...

1. FISHER: I'll take it from here MacNeill - before you bore us to death with a history lesson.<sup>5</sup> Hello. My name is Joseph R Fisher, editor of the Northern Whig newspaper. I'll be representing Northern Ireland on this Commission. My aim is to ensure that 'not one inch' of territory passes to the south.<sup>6</sup>
2. CROWD: Yayyy!!!!/ Booooo!!!!
3. MACNEILL Well obviously there will be some territory passing...
4. FISHER Not if I can help it!
5. MACNEILL Now see here Fisher...
6. FISHER You're out of your depth MacNeill! You don't even have legal training.<sup>7</sup> And, you've no integrity!
7. MACNEILL Integrity?! I've seen your sneaky letters to Northern Ireland's Prime Minister James Craig - the dealings of this committee are to be confidential!<sup>8</sup>
8. FEETHAM *(To the bickering men)* Gentlemen, quiet! *(To the crowd)*. Hello all. I am Justice Richard Feetham, chairman of this Commission. I am a veteran of the Boer War and The Great War, former member of the South African Parliament and currently sit on the Supreme Court. I am an Empire man, through and through, and I believe I have a reputation for fairness.<sup>9</sup> I'll have this border sorted in no time.

1. CROWD: Yayyy!!!!/ Wooo!!! / Go on you boy ya!
2. FEETHAM Alright, any questions? Or comments?
3. SALLY: This border business is all the greatest rot. I can tell you that no-one wants it!<sup>13</sup>
4. FISHER: Excuse me ma'am, the people of Ulster *do* want a border.
5. SALLY: Maybe in 'Belfast' there's rich fellas with their fancy clothes like yourselves that want it, but not here. It'll never last!<sup>14</sup>
6. PAUL: Excuse me! I want a border! I want it to be stronger and taller than ever!
7. SALLY: Well I don't want it all!
8. MACNEILL: Don't worry *a chairde*. Justice Feetham here will sort it out.
9. SALLY He's a big Englishman! He's biased!
10. FEETHAM: Excuse me, I was born in Wales, not England. But I am a South African.
11. MACNEILL: You see? He has no skin in the game one way or the other. He will be a fair minded man.<sup>15</sup>

1. PAUL: Well... what will you do with our border then Mr Springbok?!
  
2. FEETHAM: I will fix the problem. Easily! I solved the issues with the Indian constitution in merely four months!<sup>16</sup> Myself and my two commissioners here have an important task in front of us. Sorting out this border is of vital importance to the entire British Empire. We must not allow ourselves to be swayed by emotional arguments. We will focus on facts and figures. We will be fair and just in our decision-making. We will find the 'technological solutions' and 'alternative arrangements' necessary.
  
3. SALLY: What does that even mean?
  
4. FEETHAM: Ummm... No more questions, thank you!

**FX MUSIC - Green Groves of Erin**

**ACT 2**

**SCENE 2.1**                    **INT: RADIO STUDIO**

1.1920s REPORTER Many Northern Irish Unionists - people who consider themselves British - don't want their homes moved to the Free State. Today, Northern Irish Commissioner Fisher will be taking Justice Feetham to meet a Unionist delegation in a local Orange Hall.<sup>18</sup>

**SCENE 2.2**                      **INT: ORANGE HALL MEETING ROOM**

1.     FISHER:            They shouldn't be long sir.

2.     FEETHAM:         Not a problem.

(BEAT)

3.     FISHER:            While we are alone, I'd just like to say I've been speaking to Prime Minister James Craig up in Belfast.

4.     FEETHAM:         The dealings of this Commission are confidential, Fisher.

5.     FISHER:            I know, I know! But Craig is concerned you might be organising some kind of vote or plebiscite on the border?<sup>19</sup>

6.     FEETHAM:         I'm considering it.

7.     FISHER:            Well... we would advise against that<sup>20</sup>, sir. It'll only get people riled up. You don't need that type of anger on the ground.

8.     FEETHAM:         What do you... and Craig... suggest?

9.     FISHER:            You know, take your soundings, look at old election results, the census - that type of thing. A large scale vote would just make trouble for everyone.<sup>21</sup>

10.    FEETHAM:         Maybe you are right.

**SCENE 2.2A                    INT: ORANGE HALL MEETING ROOM                    (CONT.)****FX: DOOR KNOCKS - FOOTSTEPS AS FISHER WALKS TO OPEN A DOOR AND EXCHANGES GREETINGS WITH THE UNIONST DELEGATION.**

1.     UNIONIST MEN    Hello / hello / nice to meet you / how are you?
  
2.     FEETHAM:         Right, gentlemen. I have been informed that you think it is a good idea to keep the border where it is.
  
3.     UNIONIST MEN    That's right!/ Keep it there!/ No surrender!
  
4.     FEETHAM:         What evidence do you have to support your argument?
  
5.     FLAX SPINNER:    I'll not countenance living under a Southern Government. My cousin's found himself on the other side of the border line and he feels -
  
6.     FEETHAM:         Sorry sir, but I'm not looking for anecdotes. I want statistics, facts and figures.
  
7.     FLAX SPINNER:    Facts and figures, I'll give you facts and figures: One hundred thousand - A third of all Protestants in The Free State, have left that Catholic swamp in the last 15 years.<sup>22.5</sup> Fleeing across the border. In County Monaghan alone, we lost half of our Orange halls, either because they were burnt down, or because we were intimidated out.<sup>22.6</sup> But I don't need to talk about that. I'm concentrating on the economic argument.

1. FLAX SPINNER: I own a flax spinning business here, sir, and 99 percent of my trade goes through Belfast - there's a figure for you. A customs barrier separating me from Belfast would be economic disaster.<sup>22</sup>

**SFX: MURMURS OF AGREEMENT**

2. FEETHAM: There has to be a customs barrier somewhere.
3. BUSINESSMAN: And we should be the ones who determine it! We are the Protestant farmers and business owners. We own the land, we pay the rates, we pay the tax. We know about economics<sup>23</sup>. And I have many Catholic friends who would agree with me!
4. UNIONIST MEN Likewise / Me too / Absolutely!
5. FEETHAM: Wonderful. Can you present them as witnesses?
6. UNIONIST MEN Uhhh... well uhhh they're busy... / they're not free / at their grandmother's funeral / they're dead. <sup>24</sup>

**SCENE 2.3**                    **INT: RADIO STUDIO**

1.     1920s REPORTER            The Boundary Commission is hard at work, hearing both sides of the argument. The Unionists have been concentrating on the economic argument - claiming being part of the Irish Free state would put their businesses at risk.<sup>25</sup> But, nationalists, on the other hand, hope to be transferred *to* the Free State. Reports are that MacNeill has arranged to meet Feetham at a local Gaelic Athletics club to chat with some of them and hear their views.<sup>26</sup>

**SCENE 2.4                      EXT. MEETING HALL**

**OMITTED**



1. CHARLES O'NEILL: Oh, you're serious? Well, it's like this. In four short years, the Unionists have forced 7,000 Nationalists out of their jobs<sup>31</sup>. They've murdered nearly 300 Catholics<sup>33</sup> and burned hundreds more families out of their homes.<sup>32</sup> And now their government is gerrymandering our districts, so we cannot elect our own representatives<sup>34</sup>. They want a Protestant State for a Protestant people<sup>35</sup>.
  
2. FEETHAM      And there have been IRA atrocities against Protestants and Orange halls burnt down all over the island. But, I will not be swayed by threats of violence. I am a rational man and I will make my decisions based on the rule of law. Let us move on; how would altering the border affect you economically?
  
3. EUGENE COYLE: Well... I'm an enterprising businessman. I wouldn't want my livelihood taken away.
  
4. FEETHAM:      What is your business, sir?
  
5. EUGENE COYLE: Smuggling!

**SFX: THE NATIONALIST CROWD LAUGHS**

**SCENE 2.5**

**OMITTED**

**ACT THREE**

**SCENE 3.1 INT FEETHAM'S CAR**

**FX: The wind rustles the trees, the birds sing, and Feetham's Crossley tootles along country roads.**

1. FISHER: How are you getting on in the back there, sir?

**SFX: Pencil scribbling, paper rustling**

2. FEETHAM: Good, yes. It's difficult trying to balance economics and the will of the people in my calculations... but I think I may have cracked it! Where are we now?

3. MACNEILL: We've just left Clones sir. Still in the south.

4. FISHER: Aaaaaand... we've just crossed into Northern Ireland.

5. MACNEILL: Aaaaaand... now we're back in the South.

6. FISHER: And... Back in the North again.

7. MACNEILL: And the South again.<sup>37</sup>

8. FEETHAM: My my. The border is very squiggly there! I'll definitely have to fix that.

**SFX: Pencil scribbling, paper rustling**

1. FEETHAM: And yes... I think that's done it. Easy peasy Kumquat squeezy.
2. FISHER: You're finished already? Let me see that map!

**SFX: Paper rustling as a map is passed through.**

3. FISHER: What is this?! Look at all these small towns you've moved to the South! It'll be economic ruin for them!<sup>38</sup>
4. MACNEILL: What has he done? Let me see.

**SFX: Paper rustling.**

5. MACNEILL: Look at all the Catholic areas you've kept in the North!
6. FEETHAM: Yes, but on balance, it all evens out - if we look at the numbers -
7. FISHER: Damn the numbers sir!
8. MACNEILL: How much heartache/ will this cause?
9. FEETHAM: I can't consider every single /sob story!
10. FISHER: MacNeill! Watch out!

**SFX BRAKES SCREECH, THE THREE MEN SCREAM, After a second, a thump as the car lands in a ditch.**

11. FEETHAM: Crikey!

**SFX Revving of engine. Wheel spin.**

1. FISHER: What happened?! You almost drove us into that river.
2. MACNEILL: You thrust the map in my face!
3. FISHER: You asked me to /show it to you!
4. MACNEILL: I couldn't see the /bridge was down!
5. FISHER: And now we are stuck in a ditch!<sup>39</sup>

**SFX Revving of engine. Wheel spin.**

6. FEETHAM: Gentlemen, please! It's almost nightfall. We need to find somewhere to stay or we'll freeze! Come on! We'll have to walk.

**SCENE 3.2                    EXT. COUNTRY ROAD**

**OMITTED**

**SCENE 3.2 A                    EXT. COTTAGE**

**SFX: Running, panting, shouting, knock on the door.**

1.     FEETHAM:     Hello! Hello!
  
2.     MACNEILL:     Let us in!

**SFX: DOOR CREEKS OPEN**

3.     THERESA:     No need to bash the door in.

4. FISHER: The bridge was down. Our car crashed. We need somewhere to rest for the night.
5. THERESA: You may come in so.
6. MACNEILL Thank you!
7. THERESA But just one of you... I'm a woman all on my own - I can't have three strange men in my living room! The other two can bunk in with the cattle.
8. FEETHAM: MacNeill and Fisher - that's you.
9. FISHER: But sir!

**SFX: DOOR SLAM**

10. FISHER/MACNEILL (*Sigh*)

**SCENE 3.3 INT. COTTAGE**

**SFX: FIRE CRACKLES**

1. THERESA: Have a seat there by thon fire.
2. FEETHAM: Thank you.
3. THERESA: Yous are them boundary boys aren't you?! I heard they were in the area.

4. FEETHAM: Ummm.... No no no, we're... hikers.
5. THERESA: Uh-huh... yous are well-dressed for a thruple of hikers.  
Well it's a good job you're not them. Bloody fools, the lot of them.
6. FEETHAM: Why do you say they are *fools*?
7. THERESA: Going about with their nose stuck in maps and charts.  
They don't know what it's actually like on the ground.  
They don't understand!
8. FEETHAM: Sometimes you need distance... in order to be as fair as possible.
9. THERESA: Aye and not listen to people's lived experience? How is that fair?

**SFX: Little footsteps in other room**

1. YOUNG GIRL: (from other room) Mummy!
2. THERESA: Go back to bed love! It's alright.

**SFX: Little footsteps in other room**

3. THERESA: My youngest - she's a nervous wreck. It's the customsman.
4. FEETHAM: Customs?

5. THERESA: She's just started school - and the nearest schoolhouse is across the border.<sup>40</sup> She's been getting stopped and searched by the customs<sup>41</sup> twice a day just trying to get an education. It's no way to live.
6. FEETHAM: Can't she go to another school?
7. THERESA: Aye - thirty odd mile away. No, that school is the only option, and it supposedly in "another country"! The area is becoming unsafe too - all this smuggling and criminality. What type of a life is that for her? Filled with hassle, barriers, and doubt. Look I'm not really political, Nationalist, Unionist, what have you... and I know those boys can't solve everything, they'll never make everyone happy. But maybe... if they really listen to the people who live here... *maybe*, they can clean it up some, then at least I could live my life. And my daughter too. Are you a parent?
1. FEETHAM: I have two daughters, one a newborn. They're in Oxford with my wife, waiting for me to return.
2. THERESA: And you'd want the best life for them?
3. FEETHAM: Absolutely.
4. THERESA: Then can you think about me and my daughter when you're drawing that line?
5. FEETHAM: As I said before, we are hikers.

6. THERESA: Aye. And I'm Emperess of India. Now are you for tea?
7. FEETHAM: Just one minute... I need to speak with the fellows outside.

**SFX: FOOTSTEPS**

**SCENE 3.4**                    **INT. COW SHED**

**SFX: FOOTSTEPS / OUTDOOR NOISES/ COW MOOS.**

**OMITTED**

**ACT FOUR**

**SCENE 4.1**

1. 1920s REPORTER      News from the Irish border today as a date has been set for a town hall meeting in Enniskillen, Fermanagh,<sup>43</sup> supposedly so that Feetham can hear real experiences from both sides! However, there have been reports of rumblings of discontent among the fellow Commissioners.

**SCENE 4.2 - COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE****SFX PAPERS RUSTLING, CHAIRS BEING PUSHED BACK, PEN  
SCRIBBLING**

5. FISHER: You were chosen because you're a conservative who wouldn't rock the boat!<sup>44</sup>
6. FEETHAM: I left my family in Oxford to come over here to work this out. My allegiance is to the law.
7. FISHER: I'm warning you. Do not make concessions to this Free State. The Irish people in the South are entirely beholden to the Catholic Church in Rome. Ulster will not have her laws written by the Vatican! Craig says not an inch will be given to the Papists!
8. FEETHAM: I've told you before; the dealings of this Commission are confidential!
1. FISHER: I don't care. Craig wants you to know that any changes to the border will not be tolerated.<sup>45</sup>

(BEAT)

2. FEETHAM: What do you mean 'will not be tolerated'?
3. FISHER: Craig is willing to mount full scale Unionist resistance, and Churchill backs him up.<sup>46</sup>
4. FEETHAM: That sounds like a threat.

5. FISHER: Threats got us this far. It's a tactic that works.
6. FEETHAM: What about democracy? You cannot subvert the law with such duplicity.
7. FISHER Five years ago, this whole island was under British rule, now only six counties fly the Union flag. Do not reduce the size of the state even more! I am British and proud. The Northern Irish people are British and proud.<sup>47</sup>  
<sup>48</sup>James Craig and I will do everything in our power to keep the Catholic influence away from our borders. I care about this place and about my people and will do anything to protect them.
8. FEETHAM: Fisher - you forget that my duty is to steer this Commission to deliver the fairest recommendation. And I will fulfil my duty. No amount of threats can stop me!

**FX FEETHAM WALKS OUT.**

1. FISHER: What about an angry mob?



**SFX: CURTAIN BEING PULLED BACK, ERUPTION OF NOISE - PEOPLE  
SCREAMING AND SHOUTING.**

4. FEETHAM: Settle down, settle down!

(THE NOISE CONTINUES).

5. FISHER: (screaming) SETTLE DOOOOOWN!

(THEY SETTLE DOWN).

6. FEETHAM: Thank you, Fisher. And thank you all for coming. I have been reviewing your submissions and statistical arguments, but I am here today to hear your personal stories - what is it really like to live here? Ehhh, yes, you sir. What's your name?

7. TRIMBLE: W. Copeland Trimble. Local Landowner and proud Unionist.

1. CAHIR HEALY: He's a Protestant settler is what he is!

2. TRIMBLE: A SETTLER?! My family has been here for 400 years!

3. CAHIR HEALY: Let me speak! I am Cahir Healy, local nationalist politician.

4. FEETHAM Mr Healy, please let Mr Trimble speak - you will then have your turn.

5. TRIMBLE: Thank you sir. As I was saying, my ancestors came here and found a barren marsh and they turned it into productive farmland. We made something of this place with our blood, sweat and tears, while the Catholic workers flit about like flies, never settling at all.<sup>51</sup>
  
6. CAHIR HEALEY: There are more of us Catholics than there are of you Protestants!
  
7. TRIMBLE: Aye, swarms of yous! Coming up from the south, replacing the Loyal sons of Ulster who died on Flander's Fields!<sup>52</sup>
  
8. CAHIR HEALEY: What about our wishes?
  
9. TRIMBLE: Your wishes? You and your people have contributed three quarters of the crime of this place and you do not pay even one-third of the rates!<sup>53</sup>
  
1. CAHIR HEALEY: Well, you base your claims on the possession of bullocks and grass rather than on the goodwill of human beings!<sup>54</sup>
  
2. FEETHAM: Gentlemen! If you cannot be civil I will have to ask you to leave.
  
3. CAHIR HEALEY: The will of the people! The will of the people!

**FX: NATIONALISTS CHEER**

4. FISHER: The will of the people? The people have spoken in the election! The majority of people in Northern Ireland are Unionist and we want no change to the borderline!

**FX: UNIONISTS CHEER**

5. CAHIR HEALEY: That election represents the will of Belfast, but not of the *border people* - the very people who will be affected by your decision!
6. TRIMBLE: We Protestants will never be loyal to the Free State Government. It will always be a disturbed place, a place where our churches were burned and desecrated<sup>55</sup>.

**FX: UNIONISTS SHOUT**

7. CAHIR HEALEY: What about the Belfast pogroms? Hundreds of Catholics burnt out of their homes and forced to flee for their lives!<sup>56</sup>
1. TRIMBLE: What about Altnaveigh?! An IRA gang crossing the border to murder protestants - four men, a woman, and a seventeen year old boy. Seventeen! A child! That's what's waiting for us in the Free State.

**FX: NATIONALISTS SHOUT**

2. FEETHAM: Gentlemen please! We must find a compromise!
3. FISHER: We might want to think about leaving, sir.

4. FEETHAM: No! I must get this under control - gentlemen?!
5. TRIMBLE: We will not be ruled by the Pope in Rome!
6. CAHIR HEALEY: They'll stop us from speaking our native tongue!
7. TRIMBLE: Gaelic is a nonsense language!
8. CAHIR HEALEY: Come over here and say that!
9. TRIMBLE: Maybe I will!

**SFX: Fighting. The start of a riot.**

10. MACNEILL: We must go, Feetham. Now!

**SFX: PROTESTS, CHANTING, ETC.**

11. NATIONALIST: (CHANTING) Boy-cott the Commission! Boy-cott the Commission! <sup>57</sup>
1. UNIONISTS: (CHANTING) NOT ONE INCH! NOT ONE INCH! <sup>58</sup>
2. FISHER: I'll hold them off! Save yourselves!

**SFX: FOOTSTEPS / RUNNING / DOOR SLAM. SOUND OF PROTESTS  
FADE AS THEY GET AWAY.**

3. FEETHAM: That was a disaster. What are we going to do MacNeill?  
They're at each other's throats!

4.    MACNEILL:    It was never going to be easy.
  
5.    FEETHAM:     I didn't think it would be this hard! I can't fix this  
                          problem. I give up.
  
6.    MACNEILL:    No, sir! Don't give up hope.... I want to take you  
                          somewhere.

**SCENE 4.5**

**EXT. MOUNTAIN**

**FX: BIRDS. FEET SQUELCHING. FEETHAM is out of breath.**

1. MACNEILL: Come on Feetham.
2. FEETHAM: I don't think I can go any further. Why have you dragged me halfway across the province just to get my shoes dirty?!
3. MACNEILL: We're almost there.

**SFX: THE TWO MEN REACH THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN - LIGHT BREEZE.**

4. MACNEILL: Here we are.
5. FEETHAM: It's... beautiful.
6. MACNEILL: To the right are the Cooley Mountains in the south, and the left are the Mourne Mountains in the north. And that in the middle, that's Carlingford Lough, marking the current border. At one time, all of this was part of the same ancient kingdom. A shared land, a shared history, a shared people. So much blood spilt already.<sup>59</sup> This is what I wanted to show you.

(BEAT)

7. FEETHAM: You love this country, don't you MacNeill?

1.     MACNEILL:     To my bones, Feetham. If only we could stop killing each other. There are many things I would change about the last few years in Ireland.
  
2.     FEETHAM:       The Civil War must have been terrible.
  
3.     MACNEILL:       It was. Finally independent from Britain and the first thing we do is turn on ourselves. My sons fought on opposite sides. Brian was killed. Three years ago. He died thinking I was the enemy.<sup>60</sup>
  
4.     FEETHAM:       I'm sorry. I can't imagine what it must be like to lose a child.
  
5.     MACNEILL:       We've known nothing but war on this island for almost a decade, Feetham... the culmination of a 700 year old conflict... I fear if we do not succeed with this Commission, the violence will never stop.
  
6.     FEETHAM:       What can I do? Move it one way, the Nationalists will be furious, move it the other way, and the Unionists will be up in arms! I tried looking at the big picture - that didn't work. I tried listening to personal stories - that didn't work.
  
7.     MACNEILL:       We need to do something.
  
8.     FEETHAM:       What if we do the wrong thing? What if our actions lead to more fathers lamenting the death of their sons?

9. MACNEILL: What will be the cost if we do nothing?

(BEAT)

1. FEETHAM: You're right. But the only way I can see it is... small changes. I cannot justify large transfers of territory, but maybe I can try to make it... make sense - for those children who are to come.

2. MACNEILL: There are Irishmen who would call me a traitor for not pressing you to undo this border.<sup>61</sup> But do what you must, Feetham. Time is running out.

(SILENCE. NATURE SOUNDS.)

3. FEETHAM: You will not like it. Neither will Fisher.

4. MACNEILL: I know.

5. FEETHAM: Go raibh maith agat MacNeill.<sup>62</sup>

6. MACNEILL: Look at you, speaking Irish! You've gone native!

7. FEETHAM: Hardly. I can't wait to get out of this bogland. My good Oxfords are ruined!

**ACT FIVE**

**SCENE 5.1                      INT. 10 DOWNING STREET**

**SFX: Cars, Horses hooves, Big Ben Bell Bongs.**

1.     BALDWIN:       Come in.

**SFX: Door opens.**

2.     FEETHAM:       Good morning Prime Minister.

3.     BALDWIN:       Morning Mr. Feetham.

4.     FEETHAM:       It was tough work, but here it is. The Commission's report.<sup>63</sup> I considered all sides, I looked at all the data, but more importantly I listened to the people. When I drew that line, I thought about them. I don't think it will solve everyone's woes, but it is the best I could do. I'm happy with it, as happy as I can be. And I hope those living on the border will be happy too.... Don't you want to see it?

5.     BALDWIN:       I already have. It's all over the Morning Post!<sup>64</sup>

**SFX: BALDWIN throws a newspaper down onto the table with a THUD.**

6.     FEETHAM:       What?

7.     BALDWIN:       The Irish are going mad. It's a crisis. Someone from your team must have leaked it.<sup>65</sup>

1. FEETHAM: It must have been Fisher! I can't prove it, but... he's a scoundrel. What are we going to do, Prime Minister?
2. BALDWIN: Nothing.
3. FEETHAM: Sir?
4. BALDWIN: Feetham - both the Northern and Southern Irish governments say the report is unacceptable. They want nothing to do with it. I can't get bogged down by these matters, so I'm suggesting we scrap it altogether.<sup>66</sup>
5. FEETHAM: Scrap the report? What about the border?
6. BALDWIN: We'll keep it as it is. We can all put this behind us and get on with governing.
7. FEETHAM: But sir, what about the people who live on the border?
8. BALDWIN: That will be enough, Feetham. You've fulfilled your duty and your services are no longer required.
9. FEETHAM: You cannot suppress the report Prime Minister. It's not fair.<sup>67</sup>
10. BALDWIN: Fair? I fear you have become emotionally involved, Feetham. Don't worry, no-one's blaming you - you're being assigned to Kenya to sort out their constitution.<sup>68</sup>

1. FEETHAM: You weren't there. I was. I spoke to them. I listened to them. This matters, sir! We can't just sweep it under the carpet.
  
2. BALDWIN: Enough! It's done. Craig's Unionists welcome it.<sup>69</sup> And we bought off the southern Irish easily. They're fine with no border changes as long as we cancel a few debts. The matter is settled. That will be all.<sup>70</sup>
  
3. FEETHAM: I fear we may have done a great injustice.

**FX MUSIC?**

**SCENE 5.2**

1. 1920s REPORTER      And so the work of the Boundary Commission  
has been suppressed. The border will remain the way it  
is!<sup>71</sup> It's all sorted now. No more trouble in Ireland!

**FX: Al Jolson - Keep Smiling At Trouble plays**