

Mae/Jack

JACK
Check the icebox, ya mug.

RALPH
The icebox. That's good. That's good.

(RALPH exits, cackling with maniacal laughter)

START JACK
We need a better class a' clientele.

(JACK yanks a blanket from the couch to reveal a sleeping MAE, the "hostess" of the reefer den-- traces remain of the beauty she once was)

JACK
Hey, come on, Mae. Get up off your duff.

MAE
What time is it?

JACK
Time to give this place a goin' over. Looks like the Marines have landed.

MAE
Oh, that bunch last night was high enough to take over the marines and the navy.

(MAE removes the blanket from the couch, revealing a groggy PARTY GIRL, clad in a bra and slip)

MAE
Amscray, sister. Party's over.

(The PARTY GIRL stumbles out. JACK picks her discarded dress off the floor)

JACK
Another one left without her clothes.

(He tosses the dress to MAE)

JACK
Put it with the others.

MAE
At least she's old enough to know what she's doing. Not like those young kids you bring up here.

JACK
Oh, why don't you button your lip? You're always squawking about something. Ya got more (static) than the radio.

MAE

I'm serious, Jack.

JACK

Banana oil. I'm gonna blow.

MAE

Where ya going?

JACK

I gotta make some deliveries. Then, later today,
I'll probably drop by the five and dime...

(pointed)

...and bring back a couple more kids. You got a
problem with that?

MAE

Yeah, well maybe I do.

(JACK slaps her. MAE sinks to the couch, holding
her cheek)

JACK

If you know what's good for you, you'll get over
that Mother Complex.

(JACK grabs his hat and heads for the door)

MAE

J-Jack?

JACK

Almost forgot. Can't get through the morning
without a little toot, can ya?

(JACK pulls a marihuana cigarette out of his
pocket. He holds it aloft)

CHORUS (O.S.)

REEFER MADNESS! REEFER MADNESS!

(JACK dangles the joint tauntingly above MAE. She
reaches, he pulls it back. Then he allows it to
drop on the floor)

JACK

See ya in the funny papers.

END

(MUSIC UP.)

JACK EXITS as MAE desperately fumbles for a
lighter. She lights the reefer and smokes)