

News Flash: "We're Mad as Hell and Aren't Going to Take It Anymore"

Here are three lightly abridged excerpts from the 1976 movie *Network* written by Paddy Chayefsky. In the first excerpt, TV news anchor Howard Beale calls for Americans to get mad and take action to stop the corporate takeover of America. In the second excerpt, he is chastised by his corporate CEO, which leads to the third excerpt of Howard Beale's capitulation that we are all doomed to become corporate automatons.

HOWARD BEALE'S CALL TO ACTION

"We know things are bad. Everything is going crazy. We sit in our house saying, 'Please leave us alone.'

"Well, I'm not gonna leave you alone. You've got to get mad. You've got to say, 'I'm a human being, god damn it. My life has value.' I want you to go to the window, open it and yell: 'I'm as mad as hell and I'm not gonna take this anymore!'. . .

"And listen carefully because this is your god damn life I'm talking about today. In this country, when one company wants to take over another company they buy up a controlling share of the stock.

"That's how Communications Corporation of America (CCA) took over this network. But now, the Western World Funding Corporation is buying up CCA. Well, just who in the hell is the Western World Funding Corporation? It is a consortium of banks and insurance companies buying CCA as agents for somebody else. Who is this somebody else? They won't tell you. And there's not a single law in the books to stop them. There's only one thing that can stop them — You! I want you to send a telegram to the White House. by midnight tonight, I want a million telegrams saying 'I'm as mad as hell and I'm not gonna take this anymore! I don't want the banks selling my country. I want the CCA deal stopped now.'"

CORPORATE CEO'S RESPONSE

"You Have meddled With The Primal Forces of Nature, Mr. Beale and I Won't Have It! There are no nations, there are no peoples. There is only one holistic system of systems. One vast and immense, interwoven, interacting, multi-variate, multinational dominion of dollars, which determines the totality of life on this planet. That is the natural order of things today. There is no democracy. There is only IBM and ITT and AT&T, and Dupont, Dow, Union Carbide, and Exxon. Those are the nations of the world today. The world is a collage of corporations, inexorably determined by the immutable bylaws of business."

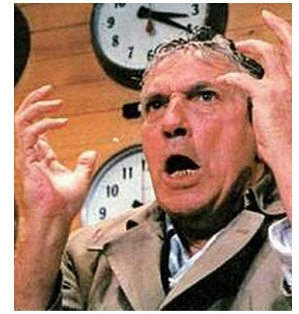
HOWARD BEALE'S CAPITULATION

"Six million telegrams were received at the White House. The takeover of CCA has been stopped. The people won. It was a radiant eruption of democracy. But that is not likely to happen again. Because democracy is a dying giant, a sick, decaying, political concept writhing in its final pain.

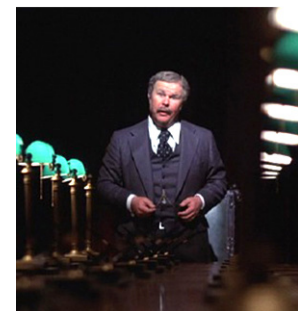
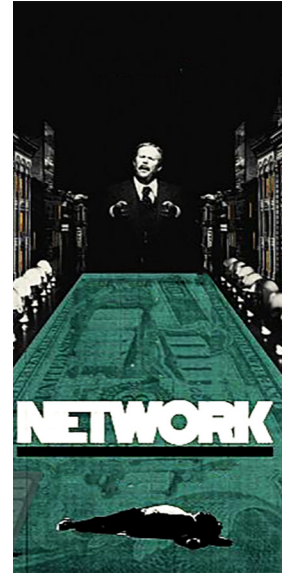
"What is finished is the idea that this great country is dedicated to the freedom and flourishing of every individual in it. It's every single one of you out there that's finished. Because this is no longer a nation of independent individuals. It's a nation of some 200-odd million transistorized, deodorized bodies, totally unnecessary as human beings and as replaceable as piston rods. Whether it's good or bad, that's what is so. The whole world is becoming humanoid, creatures that look human but aren't. The whole world's people are becoming mass-produced, programmed, numbered, insensate things."

Paddy Chayefsky's movie Network won four Oscars: including Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, and Best Original Screenplay.

Network is available for streaming. Howard Beale's call to action is at <https://www.ign.com/videos/network-im-mad-as-hell>. The corporate CEO's response can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVd98F6JLVc>



Howard Beale



CEO of Communications Corporation of America



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