

ACT TWO

SCENE 2

MISS PETRIE. I can stay late if you'd like.

FLEMMING. That's very kind of you, Miss Petrie, but it won't be necessary.

(The TELEPHONE rings on his desk. She answers it.)

MISS PETRIE. Doctor Flemming's office. . . . *(Sighs.)* Oh, hello, Mr. Sussman. Just a minute, I'll see. *(Cups mouthpiece.)* He'd like to talk to you, Doctor.

FLEMMING. Tell him I just left the profession.

MISS PETRIE. *(To phone.)* Mr. Sussman? He just left—for the day. No, I'm sorry, he just went out. Would I lie to you, Mr. Sussman? . . . Really, no one's trying to avoid you. . . . You did what? With your wife? Well, I don't know if the Doctor can help you with that. *(At this point the reception room door opens and LIEUTENANT COLUMBO comes in, holding his hat in his hands. He seems bewildered by the expensive surroundings.)* Oh, yes, I'll tell him. And if your wife calls, I'll say we haven't heard from you. . . . Fine, Mr. Sussman. 'Bye-bye. *(Hangs up.)* Poor man. While you were at home he kept calling five times a day.