

A Public Service Announcement

Collin Willis

collinaw@gmail.com
3162003444

1 . LOUNGE

Jack Bezauce, a wealthy man dressed in full suit, reclines at a couch. He has a scotch glass in one hand and a cellphone in the other.

His call doesn't appear to be too important.

The camera moves forward, a voice directly adjacent to it speaks .

JACK BEAZAUCE
Let's change that, yeah go with the
black one.

CAMERA
We're ready for you, Jack.

Jack glances at camera, he doesn't put the phone down.

JACK BEAZAUCE
It's Mr. Bezauce.

Jack finishes his phone call.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
Yeah, you better have it on when I
get to the hotel. Oh yeah.

Jack smiles and slides the phone into his pocket. He drains his scotch and sets it on the end table.

He stands, checks his watch, and smoothes his pants.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
You can only afford me for an hour.

He brushes past the camera man.

TITLE

3. PILLAR

The room is brightly lit with HIGH CONTRAST SHADOWS. The camera is handheld with quick zooms and fast pans. This looks and feels like the classic NBC series, The More You Know.

As the PSA begins, JACK BEAZAUCE steps out from behind the pillar. The camera follows him, keeping him lined on the left third. He's dressed in a full suit, his hair slicked back in the most douchebag way possible.

in the most douchebag way possible.

JACK BEAZAUCE
Are your children being exposed to
poverty?

CUT TO:

4 . COUCH

WIDE SHOT

Jack sits on the couch, positioned along the rule of thirds
exactly as he was before.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
Hi, I'm Jack Beazauce and I'm here
to talk to you about wealth
inequality.

CUT TO:

5. BLACK SCREEN

CLOSE-UP, TRACKING

Jack walks from the left third to the right third.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
Up to 46% of adults who experienced
high to moderate levels of poverty
during their childhood will carry
it into adult life and pass it on
to their children.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
(coughs)
Disgusting

CUT TO:

6. COUCH.

CLOSE-UP, PULL BACK TO WIDE

Jack stands behind a couch. On the couch is a shabbily
dressed man, ROBERT. Robert is a POC.

Jack slowly lets pennies drop from the gaps between his
fingers onto Robert.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
And despite my best advice, Rodger
here has yet to cure himself with
my good hearted trickle down
vaccination.

The last few pennies fall and Jack dusts off his hands.

CUT TO:

7. STOOL

WIDE SHOT

Robert sits on a stool. Jack stands behind him with his hands on Robert's shoulders.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
It comes down to a difference in investment. I protected myself by wisely investing my parents' money into technology. Rodrigo here invested his money into three kids and a college degree.

CUT TO:

8. STOOL.

WIDE SHOT

Robert has been replaced by a computer. Jack stands in the same position.

JACK BEAZAUCE
Rogelio made the mistake of being replaceable. Don't work so hard at your second job if you can't appreciate your first.

Jack dad-slaps the roof of the computer.

CUT TO:

9. PILLAR.

MEDIUM

SHOT

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
When I earn a dollar, it's because I've worked 380x smarter. When you earn a dollar, it's because you've worked 380x harder.

FADE OUT:

10. BLACK

SCREEN.

JACK BEAZAUCE
I've done my part. What are you
going to do about YOUR poverty?

Jack smirks and spins behind the pillar.

Slate Clack.

11. LOUNGE.

Jack sits on the couch, thumbing through an issue of Forbes.
His scotch has been refilled and he's happily draining it.

His phone is held between his shoulder and his cheek.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
No, no. It happened in China, the
state department there would never
let it leak.

A beat while the person on the other end replies.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
Then we close it down and pull out.
It's a subsidiary, I made sure when
I bought it. And I want to protect
our other interest there.

A knock is heard. Jack drops the phone from his ear. Jack
checks his watch.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
You've got me for 36 more minutes.

Jack walks through the door and out, brushing forcefully
passed the camera man.

SOUND
Didn't he donate his time?

The camera man laughs. The camera turns towards the sound
guy.

CAMERA
Yeah, he "donated" 50% of his usual
fee. And he only did that so this
campaign will take attention away
from his DUI.

12. PILLAR

Slate clack.

Jack BEZAUSE steps out from behind the pillar.

JACK BEZAUSE

It's not my fault he was born
black. I didn't choose to put him
in a lower class.

CUT TO:

13. BLACK SCREEN

JACK BEZAUSE (CONT'D)

I'm no niggard. I pay my property
taxes, I go to the bake sales, I
support my local schools. In fact,
I pay more for my schools than they
do.

14. WHITE SCREEN

Robert, sits on a couch. He looks downtrodden and his head is lowered. Jack Bezauce stands behind him, hands on his shoulders.

JACK BEZAUSE (CONT'D)

I went to class, I aced my state
testing, I ran hard in track and
field. And what'd Rodriguez here
do?

Robert looks up, almost imperceptably, before his head slumps further down.

JACK BEZAUSE (CONT'D)

He worked the first minimum wage
job he could find, skimmed his
homework, and missplaced his AP
Essay.

Jack "Jims" the camera and shrugs.

15. BLACK SCREEN

JACK BEZAUSE (CONT'D)

His parents should have worked
harder to get him into a better
school or at least transferred him
within the district.

JACK BEZAUCE (CONT'D)
 And maybe if they had studied
 harder themselves they could have
 explained his homework to him so
 that he didn't hold up the class.

JACK BEZAUCE (CONT'D)
 In my country, if you work hard,
 you earn hard. And if he had worked
 hard enough, he might not have
 joined 63% of his peers in skipping
 out on college and slumming it in a
 teenager's job.

16. BLACK SCREEN-PILLAR

JACK BEAZAUCE
 You have bootstraps, it's time you
 started pulling yourself up by
 them.

Slate clack.

17 . LOUNGE .

Jack sits once more on the couch. The scotch is again filled.
 Jack eats grapes like Bacchus, dangling them one by one into
 his open mouth. Again, he's on his phone.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
 No, no. I'll call them from the
 car.

The person on the other end responds.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
 Nah, I'm gonna do a little skiing

Jack sniffs.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
 And then meet up with her.

Knock. Knock.

CAMERA
 Final call.

JACK BEAZAUCE
 Fucking finally.

Jack checks his watch.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
 You have eight minutes.

Jack breezes passed again.

Camera turns to follow him and the camera man flips him off behind his back.

18 bLACH 5CflbLN- PLLAfi

Slate clack.

Jack Bezauce with that classic spin around the pillar.

JACK BEZAUCE

If you don't work, you don't eat.
You work harder, you eat more. It's
a simple philosophy.

19. BLACK SCREEN- COUCH

Jack Bezauce sits at the couch, reading a book and wearing glasses.

Jack looks into camera.

JACK BEZAUCE (CONT'D)

America is a Meritocracy, you get
rewards for how you perform.
There's no gold medal for ass-
sitting. People like me, we got
with that program.

He tosses the book and throws down the glasses.

20. BLACK SCREEN- STOOL

JACK BEZAUCE (CONT'D)

You want a better life? Make more
money. You don't think you're
making enough, get a better job.

21. BLACK SCREEN

Jack paces to the right.

JACK BEZAUCE

I'm so tired of hearing this commie
narrative? I had more advantages
than you+ Name one.

Jack paces to the left.

JACK BEZAUCE (CONT'D)

There weren't as many resources in
your neighborhood? Get a car.

Jack paces to the right.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
And food deserts? Come on. Your
tomatoes aren't ripe enough?

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
You'd like your chicken some other
way than fried in little nuggets?

Jack stops center frame. The camera slowly pushes in.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
The biggest issue with the lower
classes- their imaginations run too
wild. They're always inventing more
problems. When are you just going
to accept that you need a little
more hard work and a little less
bitching and moaning. I love their
excuses. I didn't have some Bill
Gates dad either, I grew up in the
suburbs like everyone else. My mom
handed me my lunch and drove me to
the school door, like everyone
else. My dad had to pay for my-

A watch timer goes off. Jack stops immediately and checks his
watch.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
We're done.

Jack rips off his mic and tosses it at the camera. He walks
out of the studio without a word to anyone else.

CAMERA
Cut! Cut! Dammit.

SOUND
Did we even get a single line
right?

Camera turns to sound, who is holding a script.

CAMERA
Eh, we'll do it in post.

The camera is moved from Camera's shoulder, down. The screen
goes black as the camera shuts off.

A beat.

. INT. BLACK SCREEN

The footage is put together piecemeal from the entirety of
Jack's footage, though none of it quite syncs up.

JACK BEAZAUCE
Hi, I'm Jack Bezauce and

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
I'm wealth inequality.

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
Let's change that

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
I love

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
Your children

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
And I want to protect

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
Them I rom

JACK BEAZAUCE (CONT'D)
People like me.

The Title flies across the scene.

FADE TO BLACK