

# **IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE!**

**An entertaining, hopefully thought provoking play  
for the 125th Anniversary of the American Chemical  
Society**

**First performed on April 1, 2001  
In the San Diego Symphony Hall**

**Copyright by Attila E. Pavlath**

*SPOTLIGHT on MR.MOON & MS.STAR enter stage left and walk up to mike stands.  
They are dressed elegantly and are commentators*

**MR.MOON**

From the heart of America's Midwest, Chicago, welcome to a birthday celebration, it is the 125th of the American Chemical Society .

**MS. STAR**

We invite you to join with us in celebrating this milestone achievement, but we warn you it is not a routine birthday, therefore it requires a special celebration.

**MR.MOON**

We think you are going to enjoy it even if you had a preview in San Diego a few months ago.

**MS. STAR**

Without further ado let me introduce to you Chair of the ACS Board Directors, Dr. Nina McClelland.

*Mr. Moon and Ms. Star step aside*

**MCCLELLAND**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Birthdays are always special, their celebration is always very happy with cake and song. Since we are the world's largest scientific organization, we thought about commemorating this special day by the world largest birthday cake. According to the Guinness Book of world record this would have to be about 125,000 pounds. This would be enough to feed our 165,000 members, but its distribution would create a logistic problem. So we compromised and we will have a slightly smaller one later.

Song and music are even more important, we certainly did not scrimp on it. As Shakespeare wrote almost 500 years ago

**The man that hath no musics in himself, nor is not moved with  
concord of sweet sounds, Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils,  
let no such man be trusted.<sup>1</sup>**

Therefore, to ascertain your trust, my first song is *(pauses while looking at a piece of paper)*  
I scared you, did not I? Well, we do not want to scrimp on the quality either. Music can make you relax and bring us together. It has to be performed professionally. According to the Greek mythology, Morpheus lulled the two-headed Cerberos into sleep with music. We should have an easier task. Therefore, I invite you just to sit back and relax, consider yourself at home. That is our aim to make the ACS home equally for everyone in the chemical profession:

*She steps aside and the choir comes on to render the song from Oliver*

**CHOIR**

**Consider yourself at home, consider yourself one of the family  
I've taken to you so strong, it's clear we're going to get along.  
Consider yourself well in, consider yourself part of the furniture**

---

<sup>1</sup>Merchant of Venice V/1/83

**There isn't a lot to spare, who cares whatever we've got we share  
If it should chance to be we should see some harder days empty larder days, why  
grouse?  
Always a chance we'll meet somebody to foot the bill then the drinks are on the house  
Consider yourself our mate, we don't want to have no fuss  
For after some consideration, we can state, consider yourself one of us!**

## **MCCLELLAND**

Did you like it? This was just the beginning, there is much more to come. What about a medley of old songs which inspires cooperation? Cooperation, working together is the theme of our President, who used a sofar unknown part of his talents and put together a musical play which which will not only entertain you but also give you food for thought. How? You'll see it. I let him tell you more about it himself. Here is our President, Attila Pavlath.

*Pavlath comes on hugs McClelland, who leaves.*

## **PAVLATH**

Thank you, Madame Chair. Ladies and Gentlemen! Yes we are going to have songs and cake, but as they say business before pleasure. I want to ask for your patience a little bit more. I am very proud of presiding over an organization which celebrates it 125th anniversary. Our achievements during this period are unparalleled. No other organization can show such an unbelievable progress. Our 38 Founding Fathers -- I am sorry to say that there were no Founding Mothers 125 years ago - could not even dream about growing into the world's largest scientific organization. Do you know that actually there were some at that time who thought it is futile to form an American Chemical Society, it was thought to be impossible to compete with the well established Chemical Societies of Europe?

However, those who did not believe in the impossible, did not give up and their effort brought fruits. During mankind's history there were always people who did not learn the word impossible. They were the one who made this organization great. Naturally, as usual growing has its own problem. With the same daring pioneering spirit which prevailed at the formation of our Society, we can overcome them. We have a new, even greater future ahead of us full of promises, but we can reach it only if we do not hesitate making the necessary changes. What should we do about it? Well, as customary in the ACS whenever facing a problem, I have created a new committee: COC, the Committee of Changes, which is our 157th or 158th, but who is counting. I call now on Jane Q. Change, whom I have appointed as Committee Chair.

*( Jane Q. Change comes on stage, Pavlath shakes hand with her)*

## **JANE Q. CHANGE**

Thank you for your confidence in me, Mr. President. It's an honor and a privilege to be here with you tonight. This is indeed a difficult task, *(Aside)*

How do you want me handle the job. Should I appoint subcommittees, hire an outside organization to run a survey or poll the audience?

**PAVLATH**

No, Jane. We do not have time for the standard procedures. Special times call for special procedures. I have selected you because in your own research you were not afraid to attack difficult, sometimes seemingly impossible tasks. I am asking you to use your imagination. Do what you think is needed for the best result. I am giving you a completely free hand. I am asking you to think about the future. It is in your hand to shape it.*(he leaves)*

**JANE Q. CHANGE:**

Whew! The whole future is on my shoulder? Ladies and Gentlemen! This is indeed a serious matter. I don't think that I can solve it alone. Our, no YOUR Society needs your help! Perhaps we don't have a consensus on what to do, but I hope I can at least convince you that we can't wait for years to begin. That we must act quickly and I'm asking for your cooperation.

*a voice from the audience*

**STATUS QUO**

*(exploding)*

Balderdash! Poppycock!

*(mumbling loudly)*

That's exactly what you'd expect, isn't it. Take our dues, invite us to San Diego, Ply us with Pina Coladas and ask us for our support to change. He's trying to change this and change that. I've had it up to my ears with his changes.

**STATUS QUO**

Hold on! Hold on just one moment! I am not certain that we should rush head long into this thing.

*(coming forward and up to the stage)*

I know that the younger generation is impatient, but as you yourself pointed out this is a serious matter, we should think it over carefully.

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

How do you do sir. I dont believe we've been introduced!?

**STATUS QUO**

I apologize for bursting in on your show, The names Quo, Dr. Status Quo. I am not convinced that any major change is required. After all the Society existed for 125 years. We have changed during these years making appropriate adjustment as needed. Apparently we did a few things right, otherwise we wouldn't have grown into the world's largest scientific organization. We have a glorius past.

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

I've heard about you, frequently. I'm sure were all very familiar with your scientific accomplishments. They are indeed well known in the scientific community. No one doubts the value of our past great achievements, but we can not live in the past. We must make changes to meet the challenges of the future. We have postponed actions for a long time and time is running out.

**STATUS QUO**

But we did make changes. Fifty years ago, we had enthusiastic volunteers who helped to build Chemical Abstracts and today we have 1200 paid employees who produce it. We can search

Chemical Abstracts on line within minutes which took hours fifty years ago. What more do you want?

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

I don't question that we've made important technological changes. I am talking about changes in our operation the way we operate. Today our members expect more from the Society than journals and meetings. They have a wide range of interest and need, they want to know what does the Society do for them.

**STATUS QUO**

But that's wrong. When I joined the Society I didn't ask what the Society could do for me. I was proud to be a member of my professional organization. You are making a mistake. Now, I agree that we need changes, but we should change the members' attitude, not the goals of the Society. Why can't they be as we were fifty years ago?

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

Whether we like it or not today's members are different from those 50 years ago, because the situation has changed. They face problems which did not exist 50 years ago. Call them realist, materialist or what you will, they are still asking "what is in it for me for my dues dollars?" If they do not see it, they will not join or quit shortly after they don't find what they want. We can't ignore it.

**STATUS QUO**

Well, unfortunately you are probably right. As much as I would like to bring back the good old days, just as we can't travel in time, the wheels of time can't be turned back.

*An atonal chorus "ahhs" under the following. Rising and falling at specific points. MR. .MOON & MS. STAR startled look for a source .*

**STATUS QUO**

Yes, today's generation is different from mine. Come to think about it, I disagreed with my parents' generation. However, I still feel that we shouldn't rush into anything without proper preparation. The time proven method is to run surveys, set up committees and task forces and debate the issues to be sure that we have the perfect solution.

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

I am happy to see that we agree on the start, but I don't think that we have the time to look for the perfect solution. There never was any historical action which provided a perfect solution to all problems in any given area. If we can improve the situation, if we can show to our members that we are earnestly looking for a solution, many of them will probably even help us.

*Atonal chorus swells again unsettling to STAR & MOON*

**STATUS QUO**

I concede that there is no perfect solution. Why don't we make some small corrections which will silence those who complain and then we can investigate leisurely the major problems.

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

Silencing the critics is only a bandaid solution. the problems will remain with us and will come back to haunt us later with magnified intensity. We shouldn't be afraid of making changes.

The need for changes has always penetrated mankind's history. Unfortunately, frequently we resist change because of doubt, overcautiousness, and even complacency.

*Atonal chorus swells STAR & MOON get up and subtly make their way up stage to locate the source of this disturbance.*

### **STATUS QUO**

I have to agree again with you on this point, but it is very risky to make changes. What about if we make the wrong decision?

### **JANE Q. CHANGE**

What about if we don't make any decision? The consequences can be worse than those of an imperfect solution. Do you really think that we can afford to sit and do nothing, just because we might not succeed? By failing to respond we are risking to become irrelevant. We must not be afraid to dream about what we can do. We must not delay actions just because we have doubts about their outcome. Let me call on the wisdom of Shakespeare's writings from Measure for Measure " **Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt**".

*Atonal chorus swells STAR & MOON realize its the monolith.*

### **STATUS QUO**

But you don't have any kind of assurance that we will succeed! There are so many possibilities. Which is the right action?

### **JANE Q. CHANGE**

There is nothing certain in life, nevertheless we must try. If we can not do it one way, we'll find another approach. The worst action would be to sit back and ignore the problems hoping that they will be solved by themselves. Let me quote again from Shakespeare, this time, hopefully symbolically, since it is from All's well that ends well; "**Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie, which we ascribe to heaven.**"

*Chorus stops then "THUS SPAKE ZARATHUSTRA". Suddenly Shakespeare enters as the "2001" obelisque slides aside. STAR & MOON stand awestruck.*

### **SHAKESPEARE**

*(With a big flourish)*

I bid you a good day! You seem to be familiar with some of my writings, why not call on the author himself, that is myself, to help you with your effort. I can provide you with an even more powerful statement such as the one which I put in the mouth of Julius Caesar 2000 years ago. During the history of mankind this was always the deciding factor in between success and failure. "**Men at some time are masters of their fates The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves.**"

### **JANE Q. CHANGE**

Excuse me, Sir, but This is the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the American Chemical Society and we are discussing our problems while seeking solutions.I think that you are in the wrong place. Are you a chemist?

### **SHAKESPEARE**

You seem to be familiar with my writings, my appearance should be also known to you. Don't you recognize me?

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

Well, you are dressed like William Shakespeare, but this isn't a masquerade ball. This is a serious event and I am conducting an important dialogue to convince Dr. Status Quo, and the audience as well, about the necessity of making changes in the philosophy and operation of our Society

*STAR & MOON look into box and coax each other in*

**SHAKESPEARE**

Good, Then I'm not to late. I was worried for a second that during this long trip through four centuries, I took the wrong turn at the corner of the 21st century. I've been instructed by higher authorities to help you with your problems entering the new century and millenium.

**STATUS QUO**

But you can not be who you appear to be. There is no time travel. That is impossible!

*While STAR & MOON explore the box it shuts on them.*

**SHAKESPEARE**

You should never decide something is impossible, before you have evaluated all of your options. Even then, when all possible alternatives are exhausted, the impossible must be considered. Everything is possible if you set your mind at it! During the centuries, those involved in various fields of science frequently challenged the status quo with ideas which were judged impossible. During my many and varied travels I've seen many things. You must know that in 1886, the French Academy of Sciences collected the world's best known physicists for a two week meeting which then concluded that man would never fly in a heavier-than-air flying machine. The Wright brothers refused to accept the finding -- or perhaps the news did not reach them in time, there was no e-mail back then. They proceeded and proved what was claimed to be impossible. However, even they could not dream than 66 years later Neil Armstrong would announce from 180,000 miles away that the Eagle had landed on the Moon.

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

Even if I assume that you are who you say you are, what can you do? The charge of my committee is to find ways to convince our members about the necessity of change so that we can start our organization on an optimistic note as we are entering a new millenium. I can tell you it is not an easy job. Many people, including our Pesident tried to bring about changes for decades and you think you can do it just like that?

**SHAKESPEARE**

No! I know it is not easy, but as you've already pointed out you have to start somewhere. Now I have an ally to help. He should have been here already since he did not have to travel 400 years.

**SHAKESPEARE**

His work is just as well known as mine and has entertained most of those who are now listening to us. I hope that he didn't get lost. He should have arrived at the same time as I. Oh! Here he comes now.

*ATONAL CHORUS QUICK HUMOROUS SWELL. Another person emerges from the contraption.*

**SHAKESPEARE**

*(turning to the him)*

I started to get worried about you. What happened?

*(Then he turns to JANE Q. CHANGE)*

May I introduce Mr. Oscar Hammerstein, his appearance might not be as familiar as mine to the general public, but you no doubt have heard about him too?

**STATUS QUO**

*(Aside to Jane Q. Change)*

I don't believe this!?! There are too many paradox within the theory of time travel. Even with years of research and millions of dollars it would take quantum leaps in physics to begin to scratch the surface! I'm certain these persons are impostors.

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

*(Aside to Dr. Quo)*

Yes, there are serious doubts about time travel, but are we sure that it is absolutely impossible?

**HAMMERSTEIN**

Hello Bill! Sorry I'm late. The time setting was correct, but my space coordinates were all wrong. The obelisque is due for a 100 year check-up. I landed in a place called "disco". The noise, they actually called it music, was very loud. It took me a while to find a person who was not deaf and could give me direction.

*STAR & MOON stumble from the box looking cosmicly mugged. They wear mismatched period costume peices.*

**SHAKESPEARE**

My friend and I came through the eddies of time to offer the words from his musicals and my plays to inspire the audience and your entire organization to look into the future. Your President put you in charge of investigating changes which are long overdue. They can be accomplished only by creating an environment conducive to thinking daringly and not being restricted to the ways of the past. We believe that these well-known words from the past can achieve it. Our message is

**SHAKESPEARE & HAMMERSTIEN**

IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE!

*STAR & MOON recognize this as their cue and help SHAKESPEARE & HAMMERSTIEN through out.*

**HAMMERSTEIN**

Think the unthinkable. You may not succeed exactly the way that you planned, but if you don't try you'll never know.



**JANE Q. CHANGE**

There is one problem. This is the assembly of rational scientists, who deal with real life which they do not consider as a play or a musical. They want proof that time travel is possible. So far nothing has been published about it in a refereed scientific journal.

**STATUS QUO**

This is madness! Why have you two, of all people, traveled time to address this austere congregation!

**HAMMERSTEIN**

In the words of my illustrious friend here, "Though this be madness, yet there is a method in it.." There are more things in heaven and earth, than we can understand. Leave it to the two of us to convince them about the future. Just listen and watch.

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

I am willing to let you try. I hope you know what you are doing. However, in order to make it legal, I hereby appoint you as members of subcommittee of Public Relation.

*STAR & MOON take charge of JANE & QUO placing them into rolling chairs and guiding the to points of interest.*

**SHAKESPEARE**

Oscar, we have the stage to ourselves.

**HAMMERSTEIN**

How should we start?

**SHAKESPEARE**

We have to take them on a journey.

**HAMMERSTEIN**

Oh! Well let's go! You wrote: "**All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players, they have their exits and their entrances.**" However, the outcome depends on what they do between their entrances and exits. Uncoordinated efforts have limited chance to succeed. On the other hand, working together can have unexpected synergistic effect. We have to convince them that the world of their profession is small and they must work together. It is not just for themselves, but for the future, **FOR THEIR FUTURE!** (*He points to the choir*)

**CHOIR**

**It's a world of laughter A world of tears  
It's a world of hopes And a world of fears  
There's so much that we share That it's time we're aware  
It's a small world after all  
There is just one moon And one golden sun  
And a smile means Friendship to ev'ryone  
Though the mountains divide And the oceans are wide  
It's a small world after all. It's a small world after all It's a small world after all It's a  
small world after all  
It's a small, small world**

*HAMMERSTEIN crosses and places DR. QUO and JANE INTO moving chairs While*

*SHAKESPEARE uncovers the CHOIR*

**SHAKESPEARE**

I think we have a chance to succeed if we can convince them that they must work together. They had a very successful 125 years to which they can be rightfully proud. But the world is changing continuously and the accomplishments of the past may be endangered if they do not meet the challenges the changing world poses to them. Whether there were mistakes in the past, it is immaterial: **“What’s gone and what’s past help, should be past grief.”** They have to look at the present to build a successful future. They must have a vision, they must think the impossible. To quote Hamlet: **“There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking make it so”** If we can make them free their imagination and let them dream, how the impossible can be accomplished, we have given them a good start.

*(To the audience:)*

Though my traveling companion did not write this, it is most fitting to the start of the journey on which we want to take you. It expresses the thoughts voiced through centuries by those who dared to dream:

**CHOIR**

**There is a wonderful place called TOMORROWLAND,....tomorrowland  
and it is only a dream away..... away.**

**The moment you get to tomorrowland,.....tomorrowland  
you'll forget all about today..... today.**

**You'll be walking on clouds, you'll forget every care  
And your troubles like bubbles will vanish in air.**

**Ask me how do you get to tomorrowland:**

**Close your eyes make a wish and you're there.**

**Close your eyes, make a wish and you're theeeere!**

**HAMMERSTEIN**

I like that song, even though I didn't write it. It encourages dreaming about the future. It's a good start to put the audience in good mood, but we have to be careful. We don't want to lead them in to complacency. We don't want them to close their eyes. This has frequently been a problem through out the history of mankind. Hoping that the problems will go away. We want them to dream about the future with open eyes. Dreams are like stars, you choose them as your guides and following them you reach your destiny. While dreams are important they must be combined with perseverance, with a “can-do” attitude. Our most important task is to convince those who listen that they can make the necessary changes. What and how will be the next step. People are frequently torn between actions and complacency, forgetting that, depending on the circumstances, no action can be even worse than trying something which may not succeed.

**SHAKESPEARE**

*(performing)*

**"To change or not to change, that is the question**

**Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer**

**The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune**

**Or to take the risk on an uncertain action,**

**That can make our life better?**

**If we are afraid that we might fail  
We forfeit the opportunity for it  
Do we dare to dream about the impossible?  
Are we ready to fight for new vistas?  
We can make a difference in this world  
By daring to enter new worlds never dreamed afore  
The unknown should not make cowards of us all  
And lose the opportunity for a better future."**

*(Aside)*

Well, What do you think?

**HAMMERSTEIN**

That was great, but if I remember correctly that's not exactly the way you wrote it.

**SHAKESPEARE**

You're right, but things have changed over the past 400 years. If I want to inspire others to change, if I preach change, I have to change too. I think these kind souls understand that changes are needed, but it is the human nature to be reluctant to change, because of the uncertainties about the outcome. It is easier to say "impossible" and do nothing rather than start something new and risk failure.

**HAMMERSTEIN:**

You know what I find interesting? that these are scientists who regularly venture into the unknown to discover new territories. People who are not discouraged by the failure of their experiments. However, when it comes to their own Society they are frequently reluctant to change. If it had not been for those who kept dreaming about the impossible, many developments of today's world would be missing. Millions of children grow up with fairy tales and learn about impossible happenings, but as we grow older the problems of everyday life will make us declare more and more easily that something's are just impossible.

**CHOIR**

**Impossible for a plain yellow pumpkin to become a golden carriage,  
Impossible for a plain country bumpkin and a prince to join in marriage  
And the four grey mice will never be four white horse!  
Such folderol and fiddledy dee of course is Impossible!  
But the world is full of of zanies and fools who do not believe in sensible rules  
And do not believe what sensible people say.  
And because these daft and dewy-eyed dopes keep building up impossible hopes  
Impossible things are happening every day.  
Impossible, Impossible, Impossible  
It's possible for an old Society to make a change,  
It's possible for a learned Society to improve in every range  
And everyone could work together in the open stage  
Such folderol and fiddledy dee of course is quite possible.  
Change is happening everyday.**

**SHAKESPEARE**

Yes, you are right. Cinderella's story is more than a fairy tale, it is an unspoken inspiration for children influencing some of them later on in their adulthood. Over the centuries progress has

been made by the actions of those people who dared to dream about the impossible and were not afraid of trying out new ways even if they were not 100% certain about the outcome. We incorporated this thought in our works while trying to entertain, No matter what the story, No matter who the hero, they always carried the same message inspiring the reader and listener to dare seemingly impossible odds.

### **HAMMERSTEIN**

In a truthful story

### **SHAKESPEARE**

In a beautiful song

### **HAMMERSTEIN**

Is drama or music more effective? It is an academic argument. Some people are affected more by one than the other. Through the centuries mankind has been inspired to great deeds by the heartfelt words of its authors and poets. From Euripides to Shaw folks realize that it is nobler to the mind to oppose the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune than to be carried by the random tides of history.

### **SHAKESPEARE**

But just as frequently the same words came through with equal power when they were sung. Even impossible dreams can be achieved.

*(Enter a male singer)*

### **MALE SINGER**

**To dream the impossible dream to fight the unbeatable foe,  
To bear with unbearable sorrow to run where the brave dare not go.  
To right the unrightable wrong, to love pure and chaste from afar  
To try when your arms are too weary, to reach the unreachable star!  
To right the unrightable wrong, to love pure and chaste from afar  
To try when your arms are too weary, to reach the unreachable star!  
This is my quest, to follow that star,  
No matter how hopeless, no matter how far;  
To fight for the right, without question or pause  
To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause!  
And I know, if I'll only be true, to this glorious quest  
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm, when I'm laid to my rest.  
And the world will be better for this,  
That one man scorned and covered with scars,  
Still strove with his last ounce of courage To reach the unreachable stars**

### **SHAKESPEARE**

There are always dreamers who carry a vision. Sometimes as a voice crying in the wilderness, to try out new things and not to cling to the old. But we do not have too much time. We might have been too optimistic to promise results in such a short time. What do you suggest we do?

### **HAMMERSTEIN**

Well, let me quote you from your own Titus Andronicus "What you cannot as you would achieve, you must perforce accomplish as you may."

## **SHAKESPEARE**

In my plays I emphasized the necessity of making our own decisions. Remember I was the one who wrote "This above all; to thine own self be true" As we said music and drama have the a powerful effect. However, you were always able to put so much emotion into your music in a special personal way. I have an idea. I have a feeling that we'd all like to hear from the younger generation, after all, the future is theirs. Let's ask them, for they hold the key to our future and we should provide our support for a new direction.

## **FEMALE SINGER**

**Climb every mountain, Search high and low,  
Follow every byway, Every path you know  
Climb every mountain, Ford every stream,  
Follow every rainbow, Till you find your dream  
A dream that will need, All the love you can give,  
Every day of your life, For as long as you live  
Climb every mountain, Search high and low,  
Follow every byway, Every path you know  
Climb every mountain, Ford every stream,  
Follow every rainbow, Till you find your dream**

## **MALE SINGER**

**A dream that will need, All the love you can give,  
Every day of your life, For as long as you live**

## **ALL**

**Climb every mountain, Search high and low,  
Follow every byway, Every path you know  
Climb every mountain, Ford every stream,  
Follow every rainbow, Till you find your dream**

## **SHAKESPEARE**

Now that's the right attitude!

## **HAMMERSTEIN**

Unfortunately, people do not always stick to it. They are easily discouraged by the problems. They are afraid of the storm and dark. What can we recommend to them to give them strength?

## **SHAKESPEARE**

You quoted me earlier, let me return the compliment. You've heard the old saying that one picture is worth thousand words. Your works can say more in a shorter time than my long dramas ever could. I am certain that more people can sing your songs than quote from my plays. Through time travel I learned this one and it is my favorite. I wish I had known it 400 years ago. I would have incorporated it into one of my plays. If it worked for Carousel, it would have worked for me too.

## **FEMALE SINGER**

**When you walk through a storm, Keep your chin up high,  
And don't be afraid of the dark, At the end of the storm is a golden sky,**

**And the sweet silver song of the lark  
Walk on through the wind, Walk on through the rain,  
Though your dreams be tossed and blown  
Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart,  
And you'll never walk alone. You'll never walk alone**

*(JANE Q. CHANGE comes forward while applauding)*

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

I am very impressed! You did a wonderful job. You have inspired me to make a small contribution to your effort in kind. I believe that if you set your mind to it anything is possible. In medical sciences it was proven that at least 50% of the success of the effect of a treatment or medicine is dependent on whether one believes in its success. Whether you believe!

*the spot light shifts again to the female singer*

**FEMALE SINGER**

**I believe for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows  
I believe that somewhere in the darkest night, a candle glows  
I believe for everyone who goes astray,  
Someone will come to show the way I believe, I believe.**

*(she approaches Status Quo)*

**I believe that for every setback, there is a new way to go  
I believe that even in the worst maze, there is a direction to show  
I believe for every failure,  
there will be a new act in nature  
I believe, I believe**

**STATUS QUO**

I believe! I do believe too. I do not know how you did it. At this point I do not know what to believe. Whether or not Mr. Shakespeare and Mr. Hammerstein are real, they made me think, and they made sense. I grew up with their work. Whether they used the words as I heard them many years ago is immaterial. What is important is that I remember, as a young man being inspired by them to improve the world around me. Perhaps during the years, I've become complacent. But I am willing to work with you if you are willing to accept my cooperation.

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

Thank you Dr. Status Quo. I do not claim that I know everything. I need your help too. I think we have a chance.

*(out to audience)*

We really can solve the problems that face us, together.

*(to Shakespeare and Hammerstein)*

As for you two fellows, Even if I were not an optimist by nature, I really think your message got through and is clear even for the undecided. I hope that the words from your work planted the seed in our minds that will start us moving. I wish I could be more original, but I can not do better than quoting from Twelfth Night "**I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks.**"

**HAMMERSTEIN**

No, you don't owe us thanks. We want to thank you for the opportunity to inspire. Through our travels in history we've learned many things and in a curious unexplainable way it also influences our work in our own time. Did we write what you heard today many years ago or did the circumstances give us the inspiration and we are taking it back to our time? We are artists not scientists, we do not understand the complexity of time travel. But it is immaterial. The only thing that's important is to help one another. We wish you luck.

*(Turns to go then.come forward to talk to the audience..)*

If you could only see the bright and shining future that lies before you...

*(exiting)*

### **SHAKESPEARE**

I'm at a loss for words

### **HAMMERSTEIN**

Quote yourself!

### **SHAKESPEARE**

**"Good night, good night! parting is such sweet sorrow, That I shall say good night till it be morrow."**

*(End of musical phrase THUS SPOKE ZARATHUSTRA. They leave.)*

### **JANE Q. CHANGE:**

Ladies and Gentlemen. This was not a standard committee procedure according to Robert's Rule, but special times call for unusual approaches. Let's follow their performance with an oldie from the 40's! with apologies to Sophie Tucker.

### **MALE SINGER/FEMALE SINGER**

**They say don't change the old for the new  
But I've found out that this will never do;  
When you grow stale, you don't last long,  
If you live in the past,then you are soon gone  
We stuck to the past as years gone by  
We thought our member's pride would never die  
They wanted changes, that we did not hear  
Now we must change, it is quite clear**

*The monolith opens again and STAR & MOON walk into the future.*

### **CHOIR**

**For there's a change in the weather,there's a change in the sea,  
So from now on there'll be changes, you'll see.  
Our way will be different, while we retain our name  
Nothing else about us is going to be the same;  
We'll change everything, our approaches and nature  
We'll change if we must even our structure  
Because nobody wants you when you're old and stale.  
There's gonna be some changes made today,**

**There'll be some changes made.**

**JANE Q. CHANGE**

On behalf of our President and myself, I ask for your cooperation. I most sincerely thank you for your coming forward. You brought up important points which we will take in consideration during our deliberation. In the spirit of your suggestion, I would like to ask to join my committee so that we can work together.

**DR. STATUS QUO.**

...And I thank you for bringing back old memories and reminding me of my youth, when I believed that nothing was impossible. It is never too late for an old man to learn new things. We can find the solutions if we work together. You convinced me that we must work together. It is unimportant what happened in the past and who did what to whom. The past is only important so that we do not make the same mistakes again. I offer you my help. And pledge to work together to find a common ground. Let's look at the future and find, jointly, the best solution for all of us. After all **"We are all in this together!"** You caught the spirit from Mr. Hammerstein by rephrasing an old song, I was not left untouched either by them. Let me show the effect of Mr. Shakespeare had on me. Though I do not have the artistic talent our two visitors exhibited, perhaps I can also contribute in a small way to this event:

**If we shadows have enlightened, Think but this and your day is brightened,  
That were given options here, on this blue and noble sphere,  
and this brief and hopeful theme, a part of someones fervent dream,  
needs our help if it's to grow, and It's time for our change to show,  
Give me your hands if we be friends, For this is how our story ends.**

*(he leaves and shakes hand with Dr. Pavlath as he comes back)*

**JANE Q. CHANGE:**

Mr. President, while we have a long way to go, I am confident that the first step was made and the outcome is optimistic. I want to thank you for the opportunity to be part of this effort. Please, don't hesitate to call on me if I can help in any other way.

*(she leaves)*

**PAVLATH**

*(to the audience)*

Whether you agree with the intended message of this evening or not, I hope you have enjoyed the performance itself. As Shakespeare and Hammerstein were saying..*(pauses)*. Were they really here? Do you believe in time travel? It does not matter. It is what they were trying to convey that matters. Can you imagine an ACS where the various segments of the organizations are working together? Actually, I tried to get more contemporary authors to come and I have contacted John Lennon. Unfortunately, he was performing in the 24th century with Elvis Presley, but he sent one of his songs: "Imagine". Don't worry, I will not scare you with my singing, I was not elected as President for my talent in singing. Let me just paraphrase it to fit this presentation

**Imagine that everything is green, It's easy if you try  
There are no clouds on the horizon, Above us only blue sky  
Imagine that we can agree, It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to disagree, And no arguments too**



**You may say I'm a dreamer, But I'm not the only one  
I hope we can work together, And the Society will be as one**

*(raises his voice)*

Eric the Red, Columbus,, Captain Kirk, they all went to where no one ever has gone before. History was made, the the world was shaped by people who dared to dream even the impossible, and proved that no dream is impossible if you set your mind at it.

**ALL**

**To dream the impossible dream to fight the unbeatable foe,  
To bear with unbearable sorrow to run where the brave dare not go.  
To run where the brave dare not go.  
Though the goal be forever to far To try though your wayworn and weary,  
To reach the unreachable star! to reach the unreachable star!  
Though you know it's impossibly high,  
To live with your heart striving upward *(pause)***

**PAVLATH**

What will happen next? Did their message come through? What does the future hold for us now? I do not know, but I am an optimist. I hope we will worktogether for a better future.Good night, Ladies and Gentlemen

**ALL**

**To a far, unattainable star.**

**END OF PLAY AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SPIRIT.**