

AMAZON WAGES

written by

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INT. STUDIO

Host sits at the news desk.

HOST
Protests against low wages are
happening outside Amazon HQ. Scott,
what's the story?

SCOTT, the Correspondent, on location at the protest.

SCOTT
Amazon's working condition are an
outrage! These big box bastards are
paying the warehouse employees
\$7.50 an hour, and working them so
hard some have to pee in bottles at
their desks.

HOST
That's awful.

An Amazon delivery person walks up behind Scott.

DELIVERY PERSON
Delivery for Scott!

SCOTT pulls out a picket sign from the package. It says,
'Boycott Amazon'.

SCOTT
It makes me sick how these workers
are treated.

HOST
What should Amazon do instead?

SCOTT
The management need to pay up!
They're causing the problems!

Another delivery person arrives. Scott grabs the package.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
You're late!

DELIVERY PERSON
I'm sorry, I've got 400 packages to
deliver today.

SCOTT
Pathetic! I need my deliveries on
time...

(MORE)

SCOTT (CONT'D)
(looks at name tag)
'Brad'.

Scott opens the package. It is a giant (dinner plate sized) pin that says 'I care about Amazon workers'. He clips it on.

HOST
That's not a very nice way to treat an Amazon worker.

SCOTT
I know! Those bastards in head office deserve to have their arms ripped off. Why can't they be compassionate, like me.

HOST
Don't you think your unrealistic expectations of delivery times and fees could be forcing Amazon to overwork staff?

SCOTT
Unrealistic expectations?! I paid \$119 to be a prime member. All I'm asking for is an infinite supply of packages to appear in my mailbox the day I ask for them. It's not that hard.

Scott gets another package, a shirt. He puts it on.

HOST
It will cost Amazon \$4.5 Billion dollars to lift pay to \$15 an hour. Considering over 5 billion packages were delivered to prime members this year, customers could theoretically cover the increased wages if each person paid the tiny amount of \$1 per package.

Scott's shirt says, 'SOMEONE HAS TO PAY'.

SCOTT
What! I'm not paying.

HOST
But your shirt literally says 'SOMEONE HAS TO PAY'.

Scott turns around, the back of his shirt say, 'but not me'.

HOST (CONT'D)
Then who should pay it?

SCOTT
Obviously those faceless bastards
running the company.

HOST
Who exactly?

SCOTT
The ones working behind the scenes,
with the moustaches and monocles.

HOST
You want the Monopoly man to foot
the bill.

SCOTT
You know what I mean. The guys who
swim in pools filled with gold
coins.

HOST
The animated character of Scrooge
McDuck?

SCOTT
Ok, you're trying to make me sound
ridiculous. I'm just saying,
someone should pay more.

HOST
But not you?

Scott opens up another package delivered to him. It is a sign
that says, 'EXACTLY!'.

HOST (CONT'D)
Well why don't you switch to a
competitor that's more ethical.

SCOTT
That's impossible!... Amazon's
cheaper.

JEFF BEZOS
This is exactly the problem.

JEFF BEZOS, in monocle and moustache, sits besides Host.

SCOTT

Jeff Bezos!? You're the monster pocketing all the money while you pay the workers below minimum wage!

JEFF BEZOS

That's a lie!

Jeff realises he is wearing a monocle and takes it off. His lower third reads, 'Jeff Bezos, CEO Amazon - Suspected Monopoly Man, steals from the bank'.

JEFF BEZOS (CONT'D)

First off! Yes the employees get a smaller hourly wage. But they get stock bonuses worth thousands. Which is just as good as cash.

SCOTT

Oh yeah. Well how do you explain the millions that you're paid!

Close up of Jeff.

JEFF BEZOS

I only make \$82,00 a year, I'm just a working class joe. And I put my pants on one leg at a time, just like you.

Jeff points to the audience and stands up to emphasis his point. An Amazon worker is pulling his pants up.

JEFF BEZOS (CONT'D)

Our highest paid executive, Andrew Jasse, is only on \$175,000.

There is a mosquito buzzing around.

JEFF BEZOS (CONT'D)

We're implementing real austerity measures.

Jeff slaps the mosquito with a bar of gold.

JEFF BEZOS (CONT'D)

Got him!
(looking at the bar)
Ooh, gross. Yuck Yuck.

Jeff throws the gold bar into the bin.

HOST

But that's just the salary. Isn't it true Andrew was also given over \$33 million in stock awards.

JEFF BEZOS

Yes, but those are stocks, it's not the same. It doesn't mean anything.

HOST

Weren't stocks what you were paying those warehouse worker's bonuses with?

An Amazon delivery person hands Scott a megaphone.

SCOTT

(with megaphone)

Oh SNAP!

Beat.

JEFF BEZOS

Urgh. Fine. But even if we brought all the executives down to \$50,000 a year, it's a drop in the ocean compared to \$4.5 billion needed to pay staff.

SCOTT

Just take the money out of your profits! AKA your olympic sized swimming pool filled with gold coins!

JEFF BEZOS

First of all. My gold pool is only 80ft, hardly olympic standard. Secondly, Amazon made \$3 billion in profits last year. Even if we put all of that into employee wages, it still wouldn't be enough.

HOST

So you're saying there's no money anywhere.

JEFF BEZOS

Money doesn't just grow on trees. Except for my Christmas tree, which is just rolls of hundred dollar bills stacked up like a pyramid.

HOST

What about the money Amazon reinvests. This year you spent \$22 Billion in research and development.

JEFF BEZOS

Oh so you read our financial reports... that's fine.

(to delivery person)

I said BURN THE PAPER WORK!!!

(to Host)

Expansion is integral to our business model. R&D helps us create new products that help everybody; like the echo, web services, and that small helicopter I put inside my larger helicopter, that slots into my mountain yacht.

SCOTT

So you choose company growth over paying your employees fairly!

JEFF BEZOS

Like Host said, we COULD pay a fair wage, if the customers just paid \$1 extra per delivery.

HOST

Let's say you magically get this extra \$5 billion dollars, would you use it to pay your warehouse employees, or would you put it into R&D, just like you did the other \$22 billion.

JEFF BEZOS

Look. I...

A delivery person hands Jeff a box. He opens it.

JEFF BEZOS (CONT'D)

Smoke bomb!

Jeff throws a smoke bomb down. Thousands of gold coins (super imposed) explode out while Jeff runs away.

HOST

I guess, even when they have the money to spend, they don't prioritise their workers. Well you were right Scott. The management is to blame.

Scott is is arguing with yet another Amazon delivery person.

SCOTT

What does SAME DAY delivery mean
Michael?! Does it mean next day, or
SAME DAY. Now I'm late!

HOST

Scott!?

Scott pulls out another picket sign. It says, 'pay Uber
drivers a fair wage'.

SCOTT

Sorry. I have to rush to another
protest. Hopefully the bastards at
Uber can finally pay the drivers a
fair wage.

Scott pulls out his phone.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

What \$22 for UberX! I'll just pool
for \$1.50.