

You'll Be Sorry, Charlie

characters: Charlie (not spoken); Narrator; Mr. (General) Rockefeller;  
(Sergeant) Hayakawa; Private Davis; Private Parts; Private Eye.

Scene I: Rice paddy in Vietnam

Narrator: Meet Charlie, a Vietnamese peasant. He lives here in the Mekong Delta as a rice farmer. For centuries his people have produced rice to feed the people of Southeast Asia.

(Mr. Rockefeller arrives on the scene)

Mr. Rockefeller: Oh my grandfather, what a splendid place for an electronics factory. We'll raise these people out of their depravity. Development-- that's the answer.

From the halls of New York City  
To the Southeast Asian Shore  
We will take my grandad's money  
And turn it into more  
Oh we'll tell you how to use your land  
How to build new factories  
And as we grant "development"  
We will bring democracy.

From the shining docks of Cam Ranh Bay  
To the Mekong Delta lands  
We will study all your problems  
And we'll place them in good hands.  
We'll invest our funds and sell our goods,  
Integrate your economy  
And win your people's hearts and minds  
As we bring democracy.

And over there, by the river, where those poor fishermen try to catch fish, we'll get A.I.D. to build a power station. Power to the people! Haugh!! What do you think about those philanthropic ideas, Charlie.

Narrator: But Charlie keeps working. He does not speak English.

Mr. Rockefeller: Damn, he doesn't speak English. I'll call my interpreter.  
Hayakawa!!

Hayakawa: Yes, boss (as he arrives).

Mr. Rockefeller: Talk to that fellow. Tell him about the wonderful ideas we have for his country.

Hayakawa: Sure, boss. (Hayakawa talks with Charlie).  
He says he is happy to labor in the land as his ancestors have. He said to take your development and shove it up your . . . you know.  
He wants us to leave.

Mr. Rockefeller: Rats. He must think we're United Fruit or something. Tell him we'll buy his land for \$22.00 junk jewelry.

(Hayakawa talks to Charlie) Hayakawa: He says to take your junk jewelry and eat it.

Mr. Rockefeller: Now look here Charlie! Ooops! I forgot. He's too stupid to speak English. Tell him, that if we can build our factory here, he will get a colored TV, many deodorants, slim cigarettes, an electric toothbrush, and if he's good, a brand new Chrysler Imperial--better make that a Chevy.

(Hayakawa talks to Charlie) Hayakawa: He seems to think you're trying to put something over on him. He doesn't even want a roller-coaster. He says get off his land or he'll shoot.

Mr. Rockefeller: But I own this land. (he pulls out deed). Maybe he'll compromise for a parking structure and athletic field?

(Charlie raises gun, preparing to shoot) Hayakawa: Watch it boss; let's go!

Mr. Rockefeller: (As they run away) You'll be sorry Charlie. We'll be back with an Army.

Narrator: And Mr. Rockefeller and Hayakawa returned to the United States. They wrote a report for the Council of Foreign Relations, talked to experts at SRI, called a conference, and told the President to go to war--against Charlie.

(Hayakawa and Rockefeller sing) Yankee soldiers go to war  
Ride your F-111's  
Drop some napalm on some gooks  
And send them all to heaven

Yankee soldiers, keep it up  
Keep right on a-fighting  
Maybe with a little luck  
We'll be next year in Thailand

## Scene II: Nowhere in particular

Narrator: And so a draft was decreed. Around the country young men were given the chance to serve their country, Mr. Rockefeller, and his friends. From Redwood City came Private Parts (Parts steps forward and salutes), a 19-year old gas station attendant. From the City College of San Francisco came Private Eye, ~~XXXX~~ (salutes), who couldn't afford to go on to a four-year college. And from Watts came Private Davis, a young black who (salute) volunteered for an early draft because he couldn't find a job and couldn't stand living with his family. And they were sent to Vietnam.

The three sing: Hooray for the Red White and Blue  
It's the flag of a brave, fighting nation  
Our investments demand the release  
Of the armies and police  
Hooray for the Red White and Blue  
We drop Napalm without hesitation

(Parts) In the air (Eye) On the land (Davis) On the sea  
Red White and Blue  
Will Protect You  
From Southeast Asians.

Scene III: Back in Vietnam

Narrator: The three privates arrive in Viet Nam. They are greeted by none other than Sergeant Hayakawa.

Hayakawa: Welcome to Vietnam, boys. Somewhere out there is Charlie. He's very dangerous. He threatens everything we hold sacred in America--colored TV, deodorants, and even roly-coasters. Our job is to give him democracy. Now I want you guys to sit in that foxhole, and wait for Charlie. And don't shoot any Vietnamese wearing blue armbands.

Narrator: So they waited (they smoke grass), but Charlie didn't come. Three days later, the mail came. (Hayakawa gets Wall Street Journal--reads it)

(Private ~~gets~~ gets Time Magazine: toilet Paper)

Parts Parts

Private ~~Eye~~: Look! A special offer from Time Magazine. They'll sell any Vietnam GI a lifetime subscription for two dollars. And it normally costs \$3.00 a year.

(Phone rings. Hayakawa pick up field telephone)

Hayakawa: General Rockefeller! (who is also seen onstage) How are you!

General Rockefeller: How's the war down there, Hayakawa?

Hayakawa: Not too well, sir.

General Rockefeller: We can't just have a military victory. We must win the hearts and minds of the people. Have your men go win the hearts and minds of the people.

Hayakawa: Yes, sir! (goes to men, who are again smoking grass)) Men! Today we have a new assignment. We must win the hearts and minds of the people.

Davis

(~~XXXX~~ runs around the crowd handing out Cigarettes and bubble gum)  
(Parts ~~XXXX~~ offers his time magazine) ~~Parts~~

Private Eye: (to the people) I think that I shall never seize  
A village so lovely as a Vietnamese

A hamlet whose people toil each day  
And hope that Charlie will go away

It makes us sad to ruin you land  
Destroy your families  
But we do this for your freedom  
We love the Vietnamese

So give us your hearts, your minds, your souls  
And stand forth staunchly--endorse our goals  
And if you find our methods wrong  
Go complain to the Viet Cong

(phone rings)

General Rockefeller: Well Hayakawa, are we winning the "other war," as we call it?

Hayakawa: No. The people seem duped--or hopped up on drugs.

General Rockefeller: Well, I<sup>1</sup> guess we've got nothing else to do.  
I'll call up Ho Chi Minh and start negotiating--boy I'm glad I'm  
experienced at collective bargaining. And you take your boys, go find  
Charlie, and kill him.

Hayakawa: Right, boss. Over and out. (To men) We're going to look for Charlie.  
(They search through the crowd) X

Private Eye: There's Charlie ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (points behind stage)

Hayakawa® (As he leads charge) Banzai! Kill the good!  
(The men draw their guns and shoot Hayakawa as they disappear.)

End