Objection! Tomorrow is Valentine’s Day. We need pleasant company to distract us from our onerous duties. I propose we adjourn until the day after tomorrow.

Historic shows that the Sudanese and South Sudanese only reach peace agreements when the budget is increasing. Every political leader goes to the peace table expecting to depart with more than the amount he arrived with. The problem facing the mediators was that South Sudan’s budget is shrinking rapidly.

We need a minimum of 75% of positions in the government and the army command.

Us too, but we also need compensation for all this time we have been out of office and not drawing our salaries.

Then we agree... we just need 150% of positions to share and more aid funds for compensation.

Peace talks convened in luxury hotels in Addis Ababa, all expenses paid. Delegates also got allowances of hundreds sometimes thousands of dollars per day.

It’s cocktail hour, Mr. Minister, and we have worked almost a full afternoon. I propose we adjourn until tomorrow.

Sudanese government spending (US$ billions) and peace agreements.