[walkie-talkie ambience]

Vicki: Hello again, Gotham. I’m standing here at the GCPD building with Commissioner Gordon, head of the Gotham City Police Department. Commissioner?

Gordon: No offense, Miss Vale, but can we do this quickly? A dangerous psychopath has just escaped from Arkham, and I’d like to find him as soon as possible.

Vicki: Yes, the Joker. Let’s talk about that.

Gordon: I’d rather object to calling him ‘Joker’. He remains unidentified, but he must have a name.

Vicki: He calls himself the Joker, doesn’t he? We do have a right to rename ourselves in this country, Commissioner.

Gordon: That’s true, but no one removes their name entirely.

Vicki: What about Superman?

Gordon: [sigh] [electronic crackle] I’m sure that Superman has a name, he just doesn’t tell it to anyone. He should.

Vicki: So, you’re against vigilante anonymity?

Gordon: I am.

Vicki: Superman has a lot of enemies, Commissioner. If he made his identity public, one of them might go after his family. In fact, it’s almost *certain* that one of them would.

Gordon (growing more and more heated: I don’t mean publicly, Miss Vale. But when you buy a gun, your purchase is registered, and the police can track you, because you now have the potential to be a deadly threat should you choose to be. Superman is the same threat, but more so. Anyone with superpowers has the potential to be as or more deadly as a person with a gun, without the benefit that someone with a gun can be disarmed! [crackle]

[pause]

Vicki: Well, that’s certainly one way of looking at it. But Superman is a very public hero – his deeds are broadcast on television, reported in the news and listened to by millions of Americans on the radio. What’s your opinion on, say, the Batman?

Gordon (blankly): Who?

Vicki: You know, Batman? Over six feet tall, wears a cape and a cowl, a living nightmare to criminals...

Gordon (flat): I’m afraid I don’t know who you’re referring to. Any such ‘Bat Man’ is obviously operating outside the law as a vigilante, just as Superman is, and has to be brought to justice.

Vicki: Batman is rumored to have been the one who captured the Joker several months ago, as well as having been responsible for stopping the string of museum robberies last week. Is there any truth to that, Commissioner?

Gordon (flatly): No comment.

Vicki: Any details on the robberies?

Gordon (flatly): No comment.

[pause]

Vicki: Let’s get back to the Joker.

Gordon: As I’ve said, I’d prefer not to call him that.

Vicki: What would you prefer to call him, then?

Gordon: The staff at Arkham call him Patient J.

Vicki: Alright. ‘Patient J’ escaped from Arkham Asylum in an incredibly brutal manner. Do you have any theories on how an unarmed man was able to do this while wearing a straightjacket?

Gordon: None very plausible. It’s possible, although unlikely, that Patient J possesses superhuman abilities of some kind, superhuman strength, for example. But our working theory is classified. And now if you’ll excuse me, I have to go.

Vicki: I understand. Can you say anything else on the subject, though?

Gordon: I really should go... well, I suppose I can say one thing. [clears throat] We *will* catch Patient J. He’ll be in custody before the week is out. Better security measures are already being built into Arkham Asylum, and he won’t be able to escape again. This will all be over soon.

Vicki: Thank you, Commissioner. Back to you, Jack.