

The optimizer arrived with one promise:
fewer mouths on payroll.

INSTALLER

It never tires, guesses,
or plays favorites.

CLERK

Does it drink?

INSTALLER

You're free for more
valuable work.

MACHINE STRIP

CLERK: REDUNDANT

CLERK

Where is that line?

RESIDENT

It is taking water.

INSTALLER

Cooling. Operational,
not personal.

CLERK

Thirst always sounds official from inside a box.

MECHANIC

Dead five.

MACHINE STRIP

SERVICE INTERRUPTION

CLERK

Good. Let it listen.

CLERK

If it draws from this tap,
it stands in this line.

MECHANIC

Glass throat. Same water.
Public mark.

The box kept its job.
So did the cost.

CLERK

Next.

EFFICIENCY BEGINS WHERE THE HIDDEN CUP ENDS.