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Birling says / speaks of / refers to: Context

'... lower costs and higher prices.' (p.4) The contrasting comparatives emphasise Birling's greed and ulterior motives.

'- I say you can ignore all this silly pessimistic talk.' (p.6) Birling repeats this adjective several times, reinforcing his arrogance and ignorance (dram irony)

'When you marry, you'll be marrying at a very good time. ... - and soon it'll be an even better time.' (p.6) Birling's flawed advice again presents him as narrow-minded. He shouldn't be in power. (dram irony)

'Last month, just because the miners came out on strike...' (p.6) hints about social turmoil
 Birling minimises the impact "just"

'... there's a lot of wild talk about possible labour trouble in the near future.' (p.6) His conservatism and traditional opinion of maintaining the status quo.

'We employers are at last coming together to see that our interests - and the interests of Capital - are properly protected.' (p.6)