

No. 6 : It's difficult.

No. 2 : Try and...

No. 6: Need time to think.

No. 2 : Oh, time, that was it, was it?

No. 6: No, it wasn't time.

No. 2 : You couldn't stand your job so...

No. 6 : No!

There are no more instances of The Village attempting to debrief No. 6 until Once Upon a Time. In this ultimate encounter between No. 2 and No. 6 every attempt is made by the Village leader to break his prisoner's resistance.

No. 2: Why – did – you – resign?

No. 6: I can't tell you that, sir.

No. 2: Was it, er – secret? Hmm?

No. 6: Secret, sir?

No. 2: And confidential?

No. 6: No, sir.

No. 2: Top secret?

No. 6: No, sir.

No. 2: Top secret!

No. 6: State secret, sir.

This is as close as No. 6 lets things get to the subject of his former job. Later he turns to more abstruse topics.

No. 6: Why did I resign? I am not a member! I am not a unit of society

No. 2: You resigned, for peace?

No. 6: Yes. Let me out.

No. 2: You're a fool!

No. 6: For peace of mind.

No. 2: What?

No. 6: For peace of mind!

No. 2: Why?

No. 6: Because too many people know too much.

No. 2: Why did you resign?

No. 6: I didn't accept. Why did you accept?

No. 2: You resigned!

No. 6: I rejected!

No. 2: You accepted before you resigned!

No. 6: I rejected!

The half dozen segments covered so far provide the only real clues behind the prisoner's resignation and the attempts by The Village to extract his secrets. The other eleven episodes offer nothing directly as to which side any character or organisation was on, or who might have been playing a double game.

Turning to Patrick McGoohan himself, he was suitably vague as to who No. 6 was and what was his job:

"The Prisoner is... about a top scientist who has vital space secrets in his head."

On another occasion, the actor declared:

"No. 6 was meant to represent anyone in a position where they had access to vital information of national importance, such as a scientist, or top government official, or even a secret agent."

And yet, to confuse the overall picture even more, various images and details in The Prisoner were those of McGoohan himself: his publicity photo, in No. 2's file and on placards, as well as the actor's date of birth, handwriting and personal or autobiographical particulars.

