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EL TEATRO

DE PROTESTA SOCIAL

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TESIS

QUE PRESENTA PARA RECIBIR EL GRADO DE MAESTRO EN ARTES DE LA FACULTAD DE FILOSOFIA Y LETRAS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE MEXICO, EL ALUMNO:

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θE VEXICO OBOF ETRA



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a mis maestros



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LA DISCRIMINACION CONTRA LAS MINORIAS Y EL LINCHAJE

Deen Are the Boots

Helle Out There

Una de las costumbres más obviemente anti-democráticas en la gran democracia anericana. Una eve gana una profunda desconfienza en todo el aundo no europeo. es la discriminoción de minorias. Ha side dirigide principalmente contra el negro que vivía en medio de vecinos blancos, pobres e iletrades. El que vino a los Estados Unidos como esclave encadenado siempre sufrió más que el que vine como esclavo económico emigrado. La discriminación, sino en el caso del negro, estebe ligado intimumente a las clas macionales succesivas del Viejo Mundo: el que vino últimemente habló el peer inglés, tuve que tomer los trabajes peor pagados, llegó a ser el "diudadano de segunda categoría" de su época, y se sentía may aliviado al ver aparecer el signiente grupe nacional después de un anevo desestre o tirenía europea, hasta el principio de los años 20 mande la materia prima pera el melting pot se cortó engl completamente. El melting pot minca funcionó sin desperdicio humano, era sinniedad casi imparcialmente y dejó su huslla en todo recién venido. Qualquier diferencia sirvió para la disariminación: color, raza, origen nacional, tradición política, religión, rova poco usual, barbas, dieta tradicional, cualavier cesa. Si el lector ne perdena ni vocabulario de rasa "superior." el mick, el chink, el sousrebead, el hunky, el grosser, el dago, y el kike, todos tenían sus días malos pere el jig les conté por alles enteres. La discriminación contra el mick, el menercheed, y hasta cierto punto el hunky, parece

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en gran parte haber pasado, pero los recién venidos y los negros siguen siende victimas.

Las protestas dramáticas contra la disoriminación constituyen una lista más larga que la de sualquiera de las sustro causas para la protesta exominadas en este estudio. El negro ha side el "heroe" de casi todas de éstas porque es un protagonista más teatral, además del hecho obvio que él es la persona que sufre más de la discriminación.

Heme of the Brave de Arthur Leurents, 1945, es la única obra importante que trata de la discriminación contra los judies, y Jemes Broughten en su obra en un acto, <u>Summar Pury</u> del mismo allo fué el único drumaturgo que defendió al pocho. Todas las demás tratan de megros exceptuando una serie premiada de 13 obras cortas de Alfredo Segre para el radio que mercoen mencionarse perque estudien la discriminación en los grupos menos conocidos y la discriminación de un grupo hacia etro dentro de los propios grupos de minoría. "Your Beighborg" se lismó la serie y fué escrita para el Instituto para la Educación Democrática y fué distribuída en discos a difuseras en todo el país.

Las obras que tratan de negros emplesan con <u>All God's Chil-</u> <u>lum Got Minze</u> de O'Heill, 1924, que estudia la mexcla de rasas pero no es una obra de protesta. La primera de éstas es la excelente obra de Paul Green, <u>In Abraham's Bosen</u>, 1926. En 1934 aparecieron <u>Ball</u>, <u>Sweet Chariot</u> del mismo autor, <u>Ther</u>

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<u>Shall Moi Die</u>, la protesta de John Wexley contra el falso: proceso de los <u>Scotisboro boys</u>, y la ebre <u>Stevedors</u>, de primera categoría, escrita por Paul Peters y George Sklar. Green volvió al tema en 1936 con su <u>Hymn to the Biging Sun</u> y en 1941 adaptó a la escena la novela de Richard Wright, <u>Native Son</u>.

La temporada de 1945-46 incluyé tres protestas contra la discriminación: Jab de Robert Ardrey, <u>Strance Preit</u> de Esther Smith y <u>Deep Are the Roots</u> de James Cow y Arnaud D'Usseau. La última ganó el favor del público. en perjuicio de las etras dos, y recibe un estudio detallade en este espítulo. Ha side seguido selemente por una obra débil en un acte, <u>Preicht</u>, 1950, por Kenneth White.

La mejer de las protestas contra el linchaje, <u>Hello Out</u> <u>There</u>, 1942, de William Saroyan, se estudia tembién en deballe en este capitulo. Varias de las obras mencionadas como protestas contra la discriminación racial tocan también al linchaje: <u>In Abrahom's Beach</u> y <u>Stevadore</u>, las mejores de ellas, y <u>Strance Fruit y Freicht</u>.

Quien va al testro para ver <u>Deen Are the Roots</u> (Hondas Son Les Reices) sabe antes de ir que la obra trata de la diseriminación racial. Y si es recista, no irá a verla porque sabe que no hay defensas de la discriminación en el teatro nortesmericano contemporáneo. De manera que el espectador sabe de antemano todo menos los detalles y el desenlace. Sabe del juicio moral de la obra, para no sabe si el desen-

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lace es medio-trágico (la victima de la persecución es vencida y el público dondena el ambiente que le vence) e si es medio-cómico (la victima sorprende y confunde a sus opreseres) o si es serie y verosimil (la victima causa admiración per su lucha con una situación fea e immutable). En fin de cuentas, el espectador asiste a una obra de protesta en contra de la discriminación racial, con todo resuelte de antemano; la situación, la condemnación moral, la anticipación completa de la sonne a faire, y las tres pesibilidades para la resolución elaras en la mente.

Tal espectador es el mejor posible para garantisar el éxito de un maledrama de acción. No hay "problema" mi estímule intelectual ni matices sentimentales. Todo es blanco y negre; todo es o virtud o viciogo público está de acuerdo desde mucho tiempo a tes con los valores expuestos en la obra.

En el caso de que la descripción anterior parezca negativa al lector, hay que agregar que el testro de melodrema miene su justificación. Era el testro predilecto de los nortesmericanos del sigle pasado, un pueble jouen, lleno de confianza, sotiva, rudo y sin "complejes." Y, sobre todo, el testro de molodrema es un testro extrevertido. También verifica la meral común y muestra un castigo inmediato para toda clase de vicios que violan el "codigo no-escrito."

Hoy en día el público burgués de los Estados Unidos ya ne es tan simple que puede gustar toda clase de melodremas como

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podía antaño. Pero dos géneros modernos sobrevivenytienen buen éxito: el melodrama psicológico, si tiene bastante sutilesa freudiana o jungiana u otra basada en <u>The Kinser Pe-</u> pert: y el melodrama de acción, si se basa en actitudes o prejuicios comunes a grandes sectores del pueblo.

Asuntos religioses, erímenes seguides por fuga, misterie y castigo inevitables, y la protesta en centra de la discriminación racial son les tres contenidos que se prestan muche a la forma del meledrama en los Estados Unidos en tiempes recientes. Debe mencionarse como magnifica excepción fuera és los tres grupos principales el meledrama de Kingaley, Dead End, que protesta contra condiciones en los barrios pobres donde la gente tiene que vivir como "cualquier animal."

Los dramaturgos del teatro de significado social han aprendide de prisa que el "mensaje" que mejor aprovecha en el melodrama es el de la discriminación. Los tiempos han establecide un nuevo arquetipo de equilibrio entre la forma melodremática y un tipo limitado de contenido social.

Dadas estas condiciones, la reacción espontánea del público hacia <u>Deen Are the Minte</u> estaba aseguradas los prejuicios de los autores coincidieron con los del público. "Tienen rasón," era el comentario. Otra reacción era de esperansa cuando se veía en el escenario a las hijas del viejo senador reaccionario tomar la decisión de apoyar al pretagonista negro en vez de a su obstinado padre. Y como en todo buen melodrema,

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las impresiones espontáneas más fuertes son provocadas por la acción más que por el diálogo o les personajes. Sobra decir que <u>Deep are the Roots</u> es uno de los mejores melodremas de asción en el teatro social contemporánes.

Les autores, Janes Gow y Arnaud D'Usseau saben bien las necosifiades y las oportunidades del melodrema y lo sprovecharon en otro éxito suyo, <u>Temorrow the World</u>, una mesela de melodrema de acción y melodrema psicológico.

Le acción de <u>Deep Are the Boots</u> tiene lugar en la casa del Senador Elleworth Longdon en el extreme Sur. Se divide la obra en tres actos:

ACTO PRIMERO: Honey, una jovon negra, y Balla Charles, nagra más vieja, las dos sirvientes en la easa, se preparan para ir a la estadián del ferrocarril y recibir a Brett, el hijo de Bella, que regresa del servicio militar. El Senador entra y pregunta a Bella si está prevenido el carro para llevaria a la estación. Su hija menor, Genevra, entra diciendo que también va a la estación para recibir a Brett. Su papá se molesta y le prohibe que vaya. Cuando Bella premete que Genevra quedará en el coche, el Senador la permite ir, de peca gana. Alice, la hija mayor se inquieta un momento cuando se entera del impulse atrovido de su hermana, pero no hace caso a la acmanción del Senador de que ella es responsable de la propagación de "tales ideas." Su primo Roy Marwell viene para informarles que ha arreglado que Brett tome la

Circodián de la especia para los negros, pero Alice dice que no será posible porque ya está arregiade que Brett estudie para al dectorade en blo-quinica en la Universidad de Chicage. El Senador empresa se desegrobación de tal interés en los nemutos de Brett. Heneri Merrick, saigo de Alice y esemitor que visita el Sur durante algunas semenas, entre para decir al Senador que pienza esperse con Alice. El Senador le regala un reloj de ere: que es un visje reguerde familiar.

Genevra viewe corricado y amuncia la llegade del "Teniente Brett Charles." Heward le da la mane. Después le explica el Senador que no ca la costanbre dar la mano a los negros. Después de que todos se han ido. Cenevra hable de Brott a Hasarie and fina persona est como el y ella juston juntos cuando miner hasta ene le prohibié el Senador. Se van y Brett entra buscande a Alice. Su madre le previene de suidar muche su conductar yn oue ha regregade a su tierza, pero Brett contesta que regibia huon trato on Indiatorra y on el elército y aus ya no quiere ser kamilde. Genevra visne para nostrar una visia y querién maiore. Ella y Brett constan poro Brett montione una cierta resorve con ella. Senevre va a la puerta para selle y englesa a resitar unos versos de <u>Otello.</u> Versos que habían aprendido suando "jumbon al textro" cuando millos. La michacha se detiene pero Brett le dice que ya no pueden ser los emiges intimes que fueren en un timpe. Alice true a Brett Los decimentos de la beca universitaria para su firma, pero el Teniente

11.

dies ys ha cambiado sus proyectos. Quiero ser el director de la pequada escuela para los megros. Todos menos Genevra pionson que su decisión en un error. Al fin Alice telefonon a su prime Rey para informarle que Brett tomará la dirección de la escuela. La mamá de Brett encuentre la muñeca y le tire e la basura a pesar de las protestas de Brett que lo quiere guardar. Bolla tione sempenhas de ave invenciones y le runga que ne elvide que "el negro es negro y el blanco es blance."

1079 SEGUEDO: Una souana después. El Sonador está de mel humers se quela de la faite de romanticisme en les proparativos de las bodas de Alies y Heward. Dolla devuelve a Gonevre un légis para labies que ha encontrade y le soccesse de tener mán guidado con sus sfortes parsganles. Howard muestra un articule en el periódice local titulado "Buestros Regros Veterance de Guerra," que no puede comprender. Contiene la frase, "Estos son los Estados Unidos, mestros projuicios son sagrados, y estanos orgallos de ellos." Quando Genevra revola a Brett and ya ha consecutido un belete de Pullman para el congreso de Atlanta: éste se mesetre méleste. La chica le pregente, cuando se quedan soles, per ende sus actutudes parecon haber emplade desde la noche anterier exande se babian passado al lado del rio. Brott se ha inguistado a causa de un coche que past. Ini vez su passo se ha descubierto. El se ha dado eventa de que ha heche lo que los blazeos esperan

y temen de los negros que regresen de la gasres se la strevide a ver a una major blanca. Dice a Genevra que le sans que le la suado muchos siles, que le suaré mucho tiempo más, y que ya no se lo diré munea más. Genevra no se encuentra melesta de lo que ha diche y le contesta que haré le único posible, que se iré para ne estar alli suando él regrese de Atlanta.

Brett hable a Alice del congreso mixte de negros y blancons ella le pide que no asista perque hay "muches Commistan" en talén congresos. Brett cuenta a su mamá que Alice no ve con favor su properte de ir el congreso, y Bella le acouseja de ir al Norte perque ella pienza que él no ha hecho bien en sor ten emistero con Genevre. Entre el Senador y se encja com Brett per haberle encontrade en su sillón; le mande afuera y le ordena que quite su uniferme. Canado el Senador se ha ido; Alice dice que ne haga case a su padre y atribuye su cólora al Marete de que Howard le había montrado el artícule en el periódico. Howard dice que el Senador en un "vestigio," y el encje de Alice erece cuendo agrega un executario sebre el Sare

"Desde arriba se ve muy benita la flor, llena de gradia y muy dellecta. Pero ebaje están las raices y de vez em cuando as ven, tereidas y calanadas como si intentemen chergares unas a las etras."

Cuando el Someñer regresa, se da exemita de que Howard no Lleva al ralej de ero y éste tiens que admitir que no le yuede encontrar yer el mensute. My viene para contar el obismo en el yueblecillo de la conducta de Brett en un incidente en la

biblictora. Howard, por casualidad, estaba on la biblictaca en aquel momento, y relata el episodio en otra versión. El Semador hace venir a la criada Homey porque está convencido que al reloj no se ha perdido sino que Erett le robá. Senevan eye a su padre interrogar a la criada y le ve selir yara busear elreloj en la pieza de Brett. Genevra y Homard que dan soles y ella le cuenta un linchemiente que vió cuendo miña y de la miradas de les linchedores. Elce que vió aquella mirada en la cara de su papá cuendo se fué a exeminar la habitación de Brett. Homard lo dice que está encomerado de Brett paro La muchacha rebusa confesarlo:

"INe mobe Yd. 10 gue pasa a una mujer en el Sur, que se esua de tul court Pues ise la edia más que a un negrei..." ¡De veras, estoy muy cacjada!"

Prott sin abririn le tras a Alice una nota anàmina doude le previone que se le ha viste viniende del rie con Brott. Ella peopecha de Genevra y se herroriza cuando ésta le confir osa que es verdad que estaba con Brott, que le quiere miche, y que, en afecto, le ema. Alice intente haceria decir que Enett le bine acompeñarle per la fuerza y que tiene proyectos infenses, hasta el robe del relaj. Hemard le ruega a Alice que sea resonable, pero ella no quiere. Sale Hemard, Honey viene para decir al Senador que ha macentrado el reloj y él la decir que le encentré en la pieza de Brett. El "charife" y sus ayuéantes vienen; Brott intente esempari le pegan, mientres que Alice grita, "(Net", hasta que Hemard les hace peyan. Mientres que les eguéantes llevan afuere al inconseiente

Brett, Howard se vuelve hacia Alice y le dice, "Pues bien. ¿Ya estás satisfecha?"

ACTO TERCERO: La noche del mismo día. El Senador quiere alegrar a Alice la cual está mustida por la antipatía de Howard y por el hecho de pegar y eucarcelar a Brett. Su primo Roy aconseja al Senador que suelten a Brett porque unas personas de la aldea se agitan, especialmente a cause de que Brett es veterano de la guerra. Roy decide, a pesar de que perderá el apoyo pilítico del Senador, pedir él mismo la 11bertad de Brett. Bella regresa después de haber intentado, sin exito, ver a su hijo. Con amargura dice al Senador que ya ne quiere tener más que ver con su casa. Alice pregunta a su papá si realmente Brett robó el reloj. Cuando no contesta, ella contesta por su parte: Si, lo robó.

Llegan Genevra y Howard después de haber fracasado también en su tentativa de ver a Brett y de conseguirle un abogado. Alice les da una sorpresa cuando dice que se le pondrá en libertad durante la noché y que el "cherife" le pondrá sobre un tren que va al Norte. A Genevra gustaria verle pero le dicen que no será posible. Decida ir inmediatamente al Norte también y encontrar a Brett alli por medio de sus amigos.

Honey entra, vacila y al fin dice que el Senador le hizo decir que había encontrado el reloj en la pieza de Brett y que no es verdad. Pide a Howard que devuelva al Senador

làs dies dilexes que le diù. Le passon quede vesie un minute haste llege frott, sucie y con vendajes en varies partes del cuerpo. Se enquentra con dide que se serprende. Quiere saber une segas d'er qué no le permitté probar su ingcencie encues le acusares del robo? Elle conflese que a pesar de querer ser juste le consideré cono un inferior. Bosard aparese después de haber pedide al Senador que venga. Llega éste, recibe sus diex délares, exprese su edie pare Brett y les negres de su class, y cuando dice revels que Conevra esté ensuerade de Brett, el Senador ve a su pleze, furiess? Alice esté completamente deceptionada. Brett dice que edie quiere "vivir su propie vide" y que "le pared es denaciade alete para nontacle." Howard intente hacerle decir que mientres tança confienze en Genevra no yuede areer que todos los blemces sen injustos, pero Brett se enoja y rebuse éponehor mán;

Genevra desciende con su maleta para ir al tren y tiene La porpresa agradable^{de}encontrar a Breth. Le pide la mano para que ellos puedan ir al Norte y vivir juntos, pare Arett no tiene confianse que este seria más felis para ellos mi pera el mundo tempeco. Le chice dice que de tedes modos tiene que dejar esta aldea, y Howard la lieva al tren. Premete a Alice-que queda sela etra vez con Breth-regreser. "Tel vez aquella pared no es tan alte," le dice. El Senador entra y sin hacer cano a Brett informe a su hije de sus medice para deminar la situación;

le ve. antes alice le ba recordade que ao civide su reloj. Erett le dice a alice, "cotanos del mismo ludo," y la mucimona conteste, "Si, Brett, al...si," y de tomen las munas mientres ces el tolón.

Il noviziento de la obre gervirle sur bien cono modelo para el joven dramaturgo que culsiere aprender la técnica del tanno y rituo capicado en una gran perte del testro comercial nortomaricano: el melodreme paicolózico y de acción, la comodia excepto la romántica, y la farmeiro de lo fotos adnores lleven. como regle, novimientos como el do Duen 100 the dotte, y la excelencia de éste dentro de una tradición de muchos allos es lo que musvo a illardyce Micoll a habler de la "Monica disstruit de la obra. Il termo consisto en ma sorie de sealeraciones de velocidad, une técnica que se llama on inglés, loilding a second y que consiste en essenas cortes que ancience con calma. Les resteraciones consister en la introducción on enda espena corte de <u>muerzo</u> sociones, enda qual calmada después con una resolución provisional y arbitroria. Las accientes meras tienen una impertaneis ascendente y su secandia da un ritzo abierto que va restringiándose hacia al telta de ouda acto y, especialmente, hacia el climer en el

tereer acte. El ritme, como el de <u>densing rean sonad</u>, es enteness el de endulaciones largas con su empleo positiva en una tensión y con la negativa en un dessenso. En <u>Den Are</u> <u>the Roote</u> y en cusi tedas las obras de los géneros mencionados arriba que tienen sonejantes nevimientes, la <u>mercula</u> de las accienes mevas derivan más del interés físico, michas veces menal, que de la progresión natural y lógion de las actiones.

Proclasmente per reconcer las pecifilidades y limitadenes en el movimiente de un buen melodruma, Gor y D'Unsenn mes ha dade un buen ejemple de la técnica, En la generación anterior los manetres de esta técnica splicanda a la comedia son George Kantman y George Abbet. En la presente, el sucosor (y discipule) del meestre Abbet en la comedia es el directer y autor de Jarn Xantaring, Garson Kanin. En etre capitule del presente estudie hay un estudio detallade de su obra.

quien espera una estructura "artistica" y lógica del molodrama espera mucha. Camdo Gansmer exitica <u>Desa Ara tha</u> <u>Desig</u> per tamer "los truccs de la fábula demasiado formados"⁸ seguramente él está sellade en etres géneros disfintes del molodrama perque entre las características del melodrama no hay la de las fábulas sutilos.

La estructura principàl es la de la ilustración del ambiente de la discriminación, enyas relece sen hondas, y en la crisis de la obra se utiliza la sub-estructura del "discubrimiente infinice" como lo uné Turnencia. Consiste en gur

varies de les personajes (y usualmente el yúblice) concem les "descubrimientes" esemeiales de la fábula que etres de les personajes molecume. El passe nosturne de Genevra y Ervit y el belete de Fullman a Atlante que compré Genevra para Ervit producen la erisis de la obra cuando el Senader y Alice descubren le que al públice ya sabé. La erisis se divide en des elimax; el primero, en el segunde acte emando Alice descubre le de Ervit y Genevra y entra en la complicación media de se padre para mandar a Ervit a la eiresi, per robe. El segunde elimax es la repetición del primero, emando, en el tercer acte, después de que se escapa Ervit, el Senador descubre le de Ervit y Genevra (Genevra le agrava al efrecer esserse con Ervit) y el Senador sale para llamar a los linchadores que ha syndade empinisar con su dimero, mientras que Alice queda come presenta aliada de Ervit en su proporte de escapar al Horte.

Tales estructuras a base de illustración/repetición son citadas per Laucen³ come escaterísticas del textre comercial norteamericane contemperánce, y las exitica duramente; aboga por una progresión lógica y generadore de la acción en su lugari

La acción consiste én tantas partos que se necesitan muchas frases para ponerla en una proposición lógica, lo sual es una debilidad, según Prices⁴

A. Brett, veterane negro de la guerra regresa come temiente y rohusa la beca arreglada per Alice para estudiar en la liberal Universidad de Chicago, Decide quedarme en se tierra come maestro en una escuela para negros.

B. Genevra compra un boleto de Pullman para el viaje de Brett a un congrese en Atlanta, y algunes vecinos ven a Brett y Genevra en un paseo nocturno. Piensan que ella es su hormana "liberal" Alice y mandan una carta de snomsa a ésta. Cuando descubre Alice lo del boleto y paseo, entra desesperada en la necia conspiración de su padre para mandar fraudulentemente a la carcel a Brett.

C. Brett 20 escapa y se enfronta con Alice, aterrorisada. Genevra da un galpo a su hermana cuando efrece casarse con Brett, pero se va sela cuando eye de Brett que las eireunstancias no lo permitirian. El Senador descubre lo que ha pasado entre Brett y Genevra y shle para llamar a los linchadores. Alice, que ha quedado con Brett le dice que puede contar con el apoyo de ella.

No es una proposición bastante concisa para que le guste a Price, pero es característica de la acción⁵ de un melodrama.

La escenegrafía sirve sãlo las necesidades de la acción: el interior rice "a la antigua" de la casa del Senddor, más de cien años en la familia delaur de los Estados Unides. No se sugiera mada del ambiente fuera de la casa y mi la case mi el ambiente participan plásticamente en la acción; tode lo exterior se sabe por las palabras de los perfecajes.

La caracterizzation tembién muestra el selle del melodrama tradicional. El juicio de Micell source del "firme muneje del carácter dramático"⁶ es exagerado si habla del drama en general y ne especificamente del génere del melodrama. Todos son "tipos,"⁷ usande el términe de Usigli, y de dos dimensiomes. Además, todos con la excepción del Temiente Brett, hacem un grupo armonicos, inclusive las negras. Todos perteneson a la casa del Senador, excepto Brett. De manera que la obra se apera muy poco en el conflicto entre grupos de perso-

mies o en las divisiones marcadas dentre de un grupe. Seemiessente hablando, hay une falte de egenpacién de les partides al conflicte. Sode es un conflicte espectédice, reduciée; y denéstico conjado con la llagada del "extranjero" heett regrese embiado de la guerre. Est vez escegiarou les auteres deta faite de equilibrie en la agrupacién para enfasiser la seleded del protegouiste y así gener para él mán simpatia del público desde al principio. Arbitrario, si, pero así le es el molodreme:

El estile de <u>Jean Ann the Books</u> es naturalista y se basa en la iluaión complete. No une las convenciones del meledruma del sigle XIX: les "epurtes" y el teresr de les higetes del villane, le bereine desmayindere, el enstige inevitable y fisico. Hey en die es un poès més sutil el meledruma, pero no mucho más.

El sotilo de <u>Den ira the Rocks</u> es une en el suel se tione ya mucha experiencia. Con un corte estudio de las biografias artisticas del equipe de Gap y D'Unsent entenderímes per sué dominan tan bion el melodromas

Both non areas, refugees from Hellywood and are bent to make the fullest use of their freeden...In 1911 Mr. Gow entrained for Hellywood, the last resort of footloose writing men, and three years later was honors as the opauthor of the picture <u>One Hight of Lang</u>...Gensequently he found himself in great densed for serven jobs involving operatic mathers. In between analgements he collaborated, with Edmund Marth, on a stage play the Drame. Professor which, "Frank MeDay tried out in Mills Flains het failed to bring to New York. Another collaboration, <u>Home Hith-</u> mi Bases, was produced by Arthur Boshard in San Francince miring the 1937-35 shance but closed after a week's

series Armend D'Unanger, his first successful colluded and amount was the Wardlier O L 27 then on, in Hellywood's delighted manper, he was typed as a mystery writer. . Measure. Gow and D'Unseen not on the M.K.G. lot and found themselves collabore ting on an original story papers at laisure. Gow an ested collaboration on a stage play deding with a structively persentive nother, lies like an incel. **en**sta ma stor chares for the film in m joined forces in 1942 on mother sections a 10.00 as they started speculating ab nt that wenld have i Masi-trained youngeter were to come into south emographic may of life. The heppy result was The play was placed on the market withour were in the East working on a doors film for the Q. T. L. 's Overseas Notion Pleture Bures der Bebert Minkin. The Theren Denberger production rected by Elliott Mignet, opened en April 14th, 196 A second company started touring the play in Septe 1943. The calleerstore started together as private the Signal Comps Thetegraphic Center in Asteria, I Island, within subway distance of Breadway; Hare found an apportantly for a second successful calle . which ensued an Arondo a de table 21 m 11 the 1011 of 194%

In ohen anteriory <u>Innerrow its Inclair</u> or del mines given de maledrame que <u>Incr</u> <u>Arn the Incla</u>, y les des supertrum el syrendisaje en Bellywood: Algén die un estudiente de testre hauf un estudie interseante sobre les fonnes testrules del XIX que émines bay en die le producation de pélimies en Belllywood:

El language de <u>line an the inche</u> es tanbiés espectadotico del malodonno. No es de las personales (al el director medicico no lo compano adi), 21 es sello personal de los actor pes: la una función de la acelán que tioné que presenter y pe apage a ella y la sirve de la misme menere que el difiege de los sentes "ebarnes" nortecanticome sirve a la acelán que tiene que relatar.

Naturalmente, la obra como todo buen meledrema tiene muche más duito en la escena que en la biblioteca. Las emociones más fuertes vienen de la acción con sus sugerencias sociales provnoativas, y, después, del diálogo, que tiene la única función de llovar la couión adelante a buena velocidad. Los personajes planos tienen poco interés fuera de le <u>hacem</u> y de su tengión sexual.

Ta hence diche bastante del maledrena de acción come una forme tradicional en al tentre nortesmeriesne del sigle XIX. pero merecen mencionarse los primeros cases del uso de este ménero en el testro de protesta social en el presente sigle: El primero es probablemente The Last Mile de John Werley. Whe de las "dies meieres obras" seleccionadas por Burns Mentle nara la temporada de 1929-10. Re un meledreme de la vida un whe penitenclaria, aunque Sobel le llema "tragedia. "? y en una protesta cu contra de "la pena de muerte," Wexley ganó otra selección para 1933-34 con They Shall Not Die, was protesta en contra del proceso falso de un grupo de negros 16veres en el Sur, el infene Socttabore case. 1934 es tembién el são del nelodrana de discriminación regial y su causa sconúmica, que muchos críticos llaman lo mejor en su génere y que varios consideren la mellor obra del testro isquierdista en les Estados Unidos: Stevedare de Paul Peters y George Seler.

El clima de la discriminación ha combiado desde 1934; Peters y Sklar pedian contar con les prejuicios anti-racistas necessarios al exito del melodrama selamente en el reducide teatre para obreres, pero en 1945 don y D'Unseem pedian contar con les mismos prejuicios entre la burguesia para asegurab un éxito consreial. Ésta es una de las razones por la que <u>Desn</u> <u>ara the Boote</u> muestra menos espíritu de combate que <u>Storedara</u>. Otre, naturalmente, viene de los antecedentes personales de Com y D'Unseau.

Antes de aparecer en los Estados Unidos, el melodrame triumfó en al textre burgada europeo del XIX. Unigli nos enseña el origen de los personajes del melodrama en la convencionalisación del textre remántice en Francis.¹⁰ Hasta que grado había llegade la vulgaridad le pedemos jungar per el cuadre de Beilly, en el Louvre, que lleva par titule "La Entrada Libre al Textre l'Ambign." Hey en día sólo el melodrama pedeológice queda dentre de la corriente remántices el melodrama de acción se ha incorporado dentre del estilo pepular, como lo hará el melodrama pedeológico suando adquiera los tipos convencionales y una base no en el exetimo sino en el sentido comán.

Si hay un elemente simbélico en la obre, le encontrance en las decisiones fincles de la hijas del Senador: la separación de Genevra de su familia y su tierra natal; el coeyo dudoso, tímido y todavía "liberal" de Alice 3 Brett. Seguramente no son símbolos revalucionarios, como pensariemos de la

Erase de Gassmer, "exploté la factude del Salas liberalisme, "" pero muestran per le menes une adeién pequada de la parte de des persenas de "buena volunted," como suele decir Gasaner, Dire elemente metalese es el veterane enne hérge de la obra: En al año de la bueba atémica sobre Hiresbine y el regrase a sus hagares de los primeros veteranes, la vista de un civil toderia llevendo su uniforme (no babía mecha repa civil) con la insignia del "parte con barmia" causé una gran impresión de gratitud y un sentido de responsibilidad en el pueblo, "Veterane de la guerra" era la frase hechigera de 1945.

Sobre este fondo tal vez la mejer sintesis del significade literal de la obra es la de Gasmer: una protesta en contra de "la magnaminidad seperficial y el projuicie arruigade, ^{al.2} La condenasión meral de <u>Deen ire ita Baois</u> east ne se muestra en el texte. Los auteres se contentaren con llevar adelante con fuerza una acción que verificaria la condenazión, con la sual el espectador entré en el teatre. Pero hay un range de melodrema de fin de sigle: el pariemente antipátice del vieje Senador suando se va per última vez para llemar a los limehadares, y que, en timpos de implicos mán disrimente emprosados, hubiera remultade un huracón de silbidos y tel vez se hubiers producide el salto, desde la sula hasta la espenag de un "defensor" entre las espectadores y el sonte al Senadory a pesar de si vejez. Hay somes más Bracionales," pero al vieje trace aires tedavía para provocar una protesta inteles-

tual a lo mones y fijarla durante media-página hasta el talén del tereor acto. Al osor el telén tal vez éndence de la permonement de la dicisión "liberal" de Alice, pero no hay duda de que el viejo es "melo y mel averignado." Salines del teatro triunfentes y felicos.

El juicio de "técnica diestra" ao es tax exagerado, pues, el so intentence splicar los valores del "textro de arte" al meledrana. No hay dada que com y D'Unesan saben la técnica del género.

Les accutentminentes que salieron en les periódices come fonde pars jesn are in Bagis durante los años 30 y 40 pedrían juntarse per contenares. El más peterie era el <u>Sentinhern</u> gans mencionado arribe. El más pesterior comreió en les suburbies de Les Angoles, Californie, en 1946. Un megre que habís compredo un lete constanyó une came en gran parte con sus propias memes. No tomba en serie las anonnes de sus vecinos blances; La came, ensi terminede y la mijer y les miñes del megre instelados dentro, les vecines blances vinieren en la escuridad de La medianeche con petrileo y gaseline, incondieren la came, y quemaren a la familia del megre dentro de la cama. Este, no en el Sur sine en el estado "liberel" de Californis, Otra obra, Simmer Parz de James Broughten, versa sebre la pelicía de la ciudad "liberel," Les Angoles, y sebre el trate que dan a cles Harisenementeneme, liannes ensifesemente por la pelicía,

"cholos."

Nevit tembién bable en <u>Desp Are the Rooth</u> del buen trate para los soldados negros, do parte, especialmente, de la gente de Ingiaterra, Francia y Milgion, y de la violencia de los soldados surellos blencos evande velem a los negros en compafía de muchachas europens. Particularmente en Bélgion muchos seldados negros se ensarou con muchachas de allá y se quedarem en Europa a vivir cuando fueren dados de baja. Seleron en los periódicos durante la guerra detallas de vielencia extraordimaria, en Bélgion y en unos de los puertes de Francia, cauxada per las relaciones de soldados negros con muchachas blences, pero el asunte ha side demasiado conltade por el Departemente de Guerra para que soliera a la luz una investigación completa pobre estes incidentes.

Pero la vielencia no es el ama más poderese de la diseriminación racial. El instrumento real es económico, y de igual manera es también una de las estimas; que constituye un sirculo vicioso que se alimenta dentre de si mismo. La segregación de las minerias raciales hacia los trabajos peer pagados define més claremente cada día los limites del "cindadamo de segunda estegaría," que constituye al nueve concepte "libepal" que intenta combier la justificación del projuicio; "No es perque eres negre, es perque no genze bastante." Esta evelución semántica contemperánea contiene posibilidades ilimitadas en favor de la rasa superior que dizige el <u>maltine paí</u>. Sus fines sen obvice, la "ergànización" social de los merte-

smericanos dentre de dos grupes les de descendencia suremen del morte, que administrarán y vivárán en los mejores colonios de las ciudadess y los denás que harés los trabajos cotidianes y vivirán dende se les puede encentrer lugar. Otre función de los interessa comúnicos establecidos es acualla que permite a les évéles de capas y cálficies ésair que a les aiudadanes de segundu estegoría no les pueden slouilar ni vender. Este es el mismo sistema antiguo del Abdito sureven basado en el becho de al un hombre no puede vivir cereane a los trabajes bica pagados, toudrá que aceptar el salarie que se le efrece dande as-14. Tal segregation textion permits "comming" multipales considerables porous lus bucuas cosuelas. el pavisonto, los drenaies, stoùtern, son necesaries solsmente en la "mejer" parte de la ciudad. Este tembién ferma un "circulo viciono" porque les "mejeres" partes de todas las ciudades nortemericanas llegan a ser mederes ends alle mientras sue las "peores" partes llegan a ser cada veg más peores.

Uno de los centres más foes para la discriminación ecomóxica contra al megro es Washington, en el distrito federal de Columbia, donde se asientan los legisladoros federales. La población no tiene voto en los asuntes del distrito---ee gohieran directamente por el congrese macional---y seguramente la agitación popular para el voto no tendrá resultado porque los legisladores del sur temen la posibilidad de un gobierne de megros corespondiente a la máyoría megra en el caso de la in-

stitución de la democracia popular en Washington, Probablemente al único público en la capital donde los megres y los blancos yueden tener reuniones y asembleas mixtas es el contre secial del <u>imprient Yaterana Guanithes</u>. Una protesta popular provocada per la diseriminación contre los negres de parte de les dueños de casas se expresa en la <u>Reupendis Himp</u> del facese contente popular, Leadbelly. La casaión tenbién refleja en une de los verses un fendence social reciente, el minero enda vez major de megres empleades per el gobleune federal y acompeñade a este el exectmiente de los projuicios burgueses entre les burberates negres contra los negres menos bien pagados:

He and my wife went all over term Everywhere we go the people would turn us down, Lardy In the Dourgoois term, Hose, the Dourgeois term I get the Bourgoois Elues-goung apread the news all erounds

Test Martin, he was spending upstairs I heard a white man any I don't want ne miggers up there, Ison He's a Beargeois man, Hees, Sourgeois test I got the Bourgeois Muss-gound spread the news all around, Here of the brave, land of the free I don't want to be mistreated by so bourgeoisds, Land It a bourgeois town, Here, Dourgeois town I get the Bourgeois Hings, I'm gound spread the news all around, He and my wife, we wont all over town Sverywhere we would go the colored people would them we found Land

In a bourgeois toon, Hees, the Bourgeois toon I get the Bourgeois Elues, I'm gouns spread the news all around. Not the folks is sachington, they know how Hook the colored man and nigger just to see him bow It's a Bourgeois toon, Hees, the Bourgeois toon I get the Bourgeois Hune, I'm goune spread the news all around.

Tall all the colored fails to listen to me Don't my to find no have in Vashington D. C. 'Cance it's a bourgeois town, Hoes, the Bourgeois town I got the Bourgeois Hives, and I'm gound apread the mount

Gracias e la propaganda no completamente dosinteresada de la Union Seviética que sigue son su propónito de la educación cosial del pueblo nortesanoricano tocante a la discriminación rucial,^{2,3} todo el mundo sabe que no se mera "leyenda negra"d tratamiento de la minorías raciales en los Estados Unidom; Aún en lugares dende nunca ha llegade una película nortesmentcana la gente conces los artejos de la "rasa superior" en los Estados Unidon, Especialmente catre las "rasas inferiores" de Asía se conces el asunto y tal vez esto es una explicación percial a la faita de cariño de los pueblos asiáticos para el subriente y generoso soldade nortesmericano.

A causa de ésta propaganda en ledas las partes del made, al pueblo norteanericano de Sentia un peco avergenzade al final de la segunda guerra cuando vieron que realmente no había gran diferencia entre un Eitler y un Rabbin o un Talmadge e unes eficiales militares radistas. Gammer había de esta metivación para lego ara the Reeks

El pueble norteamericano con su fuerte respeto para la ley sin cuando sea mal administrada, había telerado durante muchos años la discriminación y vielencia de la minería radista, pero en la postguerra insistieron en una ley de <u>Fair De</u>-

plasment Prestides. Otra ley, la anti-dynch, encentré les filibunters de les Senadores surañes y no se hiso efective. El presidente Truman ordené el ejército en 1950 que empezore a eliminar la vieja costumbre de pomer a las tropas megras en unidades separadas,¹⁵ y gané la elección de 1946 principalmente a causa de sus promesas liberales (en gran parte no realisadas a causa de los obsticulos puestos per les pelíticos sureñes) de justicia y eportunidad igual para el megro. La suprema certe erdené que los estados tienen que admitir catudiantes megros en sus universidades si no hay facilidades iguales en las escuelas apartadas para la enseñanze de los megros. La Universidad de Texas admitié en 1950 estudiantes megros en las finaltades de leyes y arguitestora. En la última facultad las elaste no sen uny grandes y enando estaré en au primer class al mesos estades todos para da la substance, dass al

<u>Desp ara the Resks</u> as le mis importante de les stress del la postguerra que tratan del "problema del negro" (el autor prefiere al termino "el problema del blance" como más junte y revelador). En la misma temporada se estremaron cuabro obras, de vidas micho más cortas, sobre al mismo tema. El melodrame de des y D'Unneau se estremó el 26 de Septiembre de 1945 y signió con 477 funciones en dos temporadas de Breadway y se quité el 16 de Noviembre de 1946. Burns Hantle, al selecciobaria para las "diez mejores" del año 1945-46, la compara faverablemente con stras dos del mismo año:

Loss are the mote acting to do serievaly with the Regro problem as it is pretty cortain to rear a troubled post-wor head in the Southern states, was the first and the most effective of several dremas inspired by a similar these. Others included Lillian and Bather Builth's Atracks Full and Sobert Ardrey's Job. Lach of these attracted adherents whe were quick to protest the superiority of one or the other. Deep are the South, however, proved more to the liking of the general playgoing public. It boosted a sincerity is writing and in pa formance that out definitely through a certain overlay of theatricelism. 16

desener la lleme "inmediatemente encaiente y provocative" y dice que faite poce pare que ses "nemerable, ^{al7} Ricoll sin equivocación dice que es "la major sobre al problema del negre, alé El autor del presente estudio apine que la obre eb la major de los blos 40 sobre al tone poro no quiere todavia comparazia en calidad con <u>Stavadoro</u>, la major de los años 30 angún un juicio casi fmanine de los críticos nortemericanes,

Seguremento es najor que el melodrema social anterior de los mismos anteres, <u>Segurem the World</u>, a pesar de que Gassner apreció esta bastante pera incluíria entre sus 17 mejores obras merteumericanas de los años de la segunda guerra mundiali

Den Ara the Secte es de une forme testral que perces casi indestructible y trate de un probleme que no se resolveré dentre de unos poces alles. Su proteste en vélide todavie y pedenos pouser que es bastante buez testro para quedar periédicemente en la teblas durante varios alles. Se preste miche para el gran testre de aficienados en los Setades Duidos; y este garantiza une vide lezge y felle. Seguranente no tendré que ausdar en un erchive despure esperaide a actores de ingenie

fantistics,

En 1951 el joven testre nortesneriesno de protesta social es spenas mayor de edad al considerantes que su vida propia empiesa en 1923 con <u>The Addine Machine</u> de Elner Rice y <u>Reser Hasmar</u> per John Houard Lausson seguida en 1925 per <u>Pro-</u> <u>consignal</u> de Lausen, e es afin más joven si adeptence un eriterio más típicamente nortesantripano, dejando come "anticipaciones" las tres obras expresionistas. De todos nodes su vida fuerte e éndigena, expresionistas. De todos nodes su vida fuerte e éndigena, expresada per un grupo grande de dramaturges en vez de per des selos, empiesa en 1929 con <u>Simusi</u> Sama de Elmer Rice y el malodrame, <u>The Last Mila de</u> John Vez-Lez.

La experiencia del teatro jeven ya nos ensella un intente de equilibrio entre forma y contenidos la adeptabilidad del melodrama de acción a la protesta y la acción social. Dige intento perque no se ha legrado en el melodrama un equilibrio como en etros géneros del teatro social (ejemplos <u>Melting</u> <u>for Lefig</u>). No hay melodrama hasta la fecha con un equilibrio de la calidad de los que llamanes en este estudio "arquetipes" (equilibrio más e menos definitivo entre forma y contenido, que sean útiles pera hacer comparaciones con el equilibrio pareial de obres socundarias pero parocidas);

El molodrama es una forma tentral no-intelectual y con opta limitación no puede discutir problemas abstructes. Al contunzio, tione que reselver un problema inmediate con una

acción inmediate. Tanpeco puede ir mán adelante que sa tiempos selamente puede tratar temas que son valeres sociales aceptados (si <u>margunante</u> seeptados, nejor, para la novedad); el público habrá preconsobide al héree y al villano antes de que se letante el primer telén, de acuerdo con sus prejuicios;

Aunque <u>Tago Are the Rocks</u> no es un arquetipo, tiene un equilibrie frágil interesente e indigene, al que tel ves el future dé el lugar de arquetipe tipisemente nortesmericene; en el génere del melodrema de protesta social. No faltas exiticos que piensen que el génere del melodrema ha legrade los mejores efectos en el textre de protesta social; el que egeribe tema la posición de "después veremes."

La discriminación contre las minerias en los Retados Unidos hay en die teme generalmente la forme de genere frie de Magneje soccimios contre los ciudadenos de segmete entegeria. Em pasado en gren parte los dias exande se marcahe per la visioneta física del linchaje. El minero de linchamientes ha diaminuide regulamente ende alle dende que llogé a su punto figide en el migle pasada. Esta diaminución he mide contemporimes y corelaria el majorantete combuice del Aur, que al mine timpe he syndade a debilitar el edie contemide en el mite del "abundo Sur." Hey se reconose allí entre la gente eduende que el deuse que existia era comúnice más que pilitico y que ne vine de Vashington sine de Sall Street y, especialmente de las compañías forrevierias. Entre los analfabetes,

evande el negre mal matride y el blanco mal matride gradualmente se encontraron lado a lado en la fibrica y después lusharon juntes contra la <u>mallagra</u>, las instituidance del poomaje came la tienda de la compañía y él életema de alquilar las essas de la compañía a los churres y las listas negros de conceidos mindicalistas, empenaron a elvidar las enemistades viejas auto el reconscensionte de las monaidades compmes-el mindicate y un suelde que baste para vivir-y un maovo enemigo conún, los pocos que intentan fomentar el odio y la división entre los muchos. El servicio militar en dos guerras mundiales tembién syndó è cultivar la emistad entre el soldade megre y el blanco, así come hay en día voteranos de guerra syndan a remper la tradición del edio en lugares talos como Tallahanges en el estado de Fierida.

El linchaje es un sujete teatral más histórice que contemperáneo, y es característice del liberalisme nertesmerionno que actualmente en el Congreso haya una propuesta de ley--que tedavia no se puede votar--para prohibir el linchaje, ya que el lincheje essi ne existe. Es tembién coracterístice de les capriches de Ellism Sarayan que escope tal memente para escribir su física obra de protesta social, comtra un abuse que en gran parte ha pasade.

Pero la obra de Sareyan, la préxima que exeminanos, es mojor que las obras de dramaturgos que más elaramente velan el problema. Sélo podemos atribuir tales contradiociones a

un exceso de passe en la dieta infantil tel menenjaro telográfico de Fresno, California, y súlo esperar que siga eseribiendo ebras responsables en una manera irresponsable.

Parece que boosite a Million Bareyan no hay un téxnine socie; o al espectador y lester es partidarie apasionade del Galiforniene o la mora monción del nombre de Bareyan sirve para especar una tirada en contra de él. De ignal manere los personajos de Sereyan parecen anablez a algunas personas y ridiculos a etras. Y los personajos son el elemente principal en toda la obra del dramaturgo remántico del valle de San Joaquín. Helle (ne Share, aunque la obra más naturalista de él, es pure Sareyan y la reacción espenténca de los personajos es la miema que esuas sus etuas obras. Después de los personajos es la miema que esuas sus etuas das elementes más funytes; Más belle tal vez es el lengenjo, pero per su nevedad lleva menes empeión.

El anter de este estudie vió per primera vez <u>Belle Ant</u> <u>Ehern</u> en el <u>lehernieur inceire</u> del <u>Euntineten Park Civic</u> <u>Ehening</u> esres de Les ingeles dende dirigt el joven Sen Peekingeh. La²³Fresentenién fué dirigida per un estudiente de Peekingeh en el estile de "teatre en redende" con el minime de decerade, y era buena mestra del dominie de Peekingeh sobre el espirite de la ebra del dominie de Peekingeh sobre el espirite de la ebra del dominie entreversial de Presno, Güifernia: Fara el erítice era una situación ideals dl, el director, y el dramaturge, todos eran de la misma ti-

erra de los verjeles y las viñes baje sel devendor del verene. Pare el bijo del velle de San Josquin les personajes reménticos de Sereyan ne sen reresi les ha visto cortande las uvas en les septiembres antes de la guerra mundial cuando les mayordemes de Anderson y disytem todavia no inspeccionaban les trabajes en les campos de algodén dende sus cuatre aviomes ligeron: O les hebria visto mas regisetamente en una de las tabernas pebre la Subercadera en San Francisco o en la taberna del Gate Negre hace cince e más años entes del diluvio sobre alla de los hebreadera.

Y para el que se ha aseciade con les obreros migraterios de la agriculture conorcial, el joven en la chreal de Matadopy Fexas, no es una figure reméntice, es un sige de astalis conocide en de varias desenas de corectes antre Fremo, Odifermia, y Estador, Texas. Y es encolomante pare no tan rare six el joven decir en la obras La gente sa iqual en todas partes. Sen diferentes solemente cuando aman a alguler. Es la única com que les haos diferentes. Hay más personas en Sun Framcisco que sume a alguien, seo es toda.

Y al coto ce un remanticiem ridiculo, une bucha parte de la peblación de San Francisco y el valle de San Jonquín en 1940 vivieron y municron reménticos ridiculos.

Halle fut There as un unlohrand de acción y al único melodreze remáxtico---exceptuando <u>Petrified Forest</u> por Bobert Sherwood--- que conece al que este escribe en el testre con-

temperáneo norteamericano. Pero antes de entrar en el amálisis formal, he actif un resumen de la noción de la obra-

Un joyen en une della de une chreel en un pasuelle sueblo, está seutedo tesendo listre y lentemente el suelo ein una enchare. Accoués se levente y comine elrededer de la colde. mire a todos lados y seita veries vedes "Hele alli." The ves de mujer conteste, di duca si alla ce Kater, perfittes ans ne. and as fully la que contra alle El le presente como en alle dice que no mbe, pero él supene que debe de estur bien perque 41 mmee ha fellado. Quando ella 4100 "Si. ya si. per eso esth on is chroel" it is explice one fue un error, one no fue rante some clles le soussrent, Mlla pregente pergués di contizin dicionde "Hela alli" y dice es persus está selo "está ome un cevete. * Ella aparece entences. una muchache vestide my pendillenette, a decisie que esté sela tembién. 21 le dies ous as bouits y ous dera tode està bien. Le dies que se cesaría y que irán a San Francisco deude la vida será buena perque estaván allí juntos. Le pregente si puede conseguir was lieve para deterie salir pere ella 10 dice aus no le pueden dejar milir percus la gente del primer pueblo dende había estado en la cárcel podría venir por él en la noche. Ella se ve a ver al puble encentrar un martille é encole é alge em and le sea posible salir. Ella va a tracula eigarres pere él le dice que vaya por la pistela de su papá porque si elles vienes per él, él suiere materies. Le dé dinere para que si

alco le pace a di. ella pacca in a San Francisco y le sucata scores de la cludad. Ella pregunte si la gente es diferente alli y 61 dice "La gente es ignal en todas partes. Sen diferentes selemente cuendo seus a alanien." Alla se va y al se pessa per el suelo etra vez. finalmente se siente con la seber me entre sus manos haste que ere el milée de ceches «fuere. We hantine entry of Marillo de Laterap Bade, " quien soon on pistole quando al joven le hable de la valer des es males dine di no matés sus ella estata escate y como cuende ella le afdis dinore il se fuè y ella espesé a griter cas hebia sido restada. Il merido dispera tres veces y hurs. La muhacha regress a decisio and no pude encontrar la pistole y pressure. que pasa, 31 le dice que se aleje, que vaya à Friero, deseude des morto y 212 of quede parade junto al cadávor. El mardedo y dos signe entran con la caposa que culere ver al jover muerte. Los headres leventes es cadivor para llevarie afuera y la muchache corre bacia ellos diciéndeles que no se lo pueden Mavar pere la mujor la empuja al suelo. Ellos se lleven al cadévar del foven aftern y la muchache se levente lentenene to mire directamento hadia afuera y murmure "Hole alli." "Hele 111 .*

Las obras de Saroyan no se distinguen por seguir los exiterios farmales del testro. Su énfazis está en los personajes más que en los otros elementos de forma, hasta el grado que varios eríticos han temado como una eurosterística de

Sarayan su "sussentia de forma." De manere que evando hacemes un amálisis formal de una obra de Sarayan, exceptannée la de los personajes, es relativa, amalinamos de la forma "Le pece que hara"

El movimiento de Halle Oni There esté hando en tres elementes: un tempo leute que acelera pregresivamente deppués de que la muchacha esté convención (cuando conteste "Es ano" al parlemente del joven "Más personas en San Francisco emen a alguien"); un anteje sexual idealizado, no cornel; y un ritme refremade que llega a un eressende finales de la ebra. El principio bajísimo no es corneterístico del melodrama y sirve dende que se abre el telén para enfocer el interés del público en los personajos; no en la mituación o la actión:

La estructure casi no existe, Tal vez nos recurrie a la tragodia que sigue una marcha inexemble hacia un fin prodetemindade o injusto pera el protagonista, o tal vez a la tragodia que presenta une filtina esporanze al desgraciode para quitaria después; o si permes el fufazis sobre la muchacha, es la estructure del desembrimiente clímico de iniototeles, un descubrimiente medio desemvellado, medio entendide y no realizados o en términos de los des personajes, es al deseukrimiente remintico del manente esgante de encontrar el cor antes de la marte del jovan. Pero en contra de la filtina posibilidad hay que advertir que los protagonistas de

Sereyan no tienen un solo amor, tienen multitudes, aman a todo el mando todos de una vez o une por uno.

Les dudes tocante la estructure no deben perjudicar di locter tanto cons a los críticos y a los profesores, y tal vez serán contrabalanceados por una excelencia lógica inesporadas la obra se somete facilmente a la prueba de la proposición de Pticos

A: Un joven, falemente engaresiado por rapto, gana la configura de la eriada alli sela: Elle ve pare consogairie una pigtola para defenderse de los linehadores quando vengan.

R. Todavia corea de la carcel ella ere a los linchaderes y regresa a encontrar el joven herido de belasos,

C. El la urge de huir al pueble a Son Francisco con el dinero que al la había dados y él cas muerte y los limchadores lo lleven.

El lugar es un pueblecille del estade de Texas, el tienpe es el presente. Er el minimo decorado; Sarcyan especifies la celda, no más. El domaturgo suglere fuertemente en el diá/ogo la constante restricción de la vida provinciana que se da como causa del odie y la yoqueñes. Este ambiente es un actor principal en la acción, es de el que el joven quiere mivar a la muchacha, y es en verdad este actor generalisade y ne el marido quien mata al joven prisionere. El joven y la chica sen los "fuereñes" del pueblecillo; se encomtran une di otro perque viven en la misma seledado

El jeven es un personaje tipico de Sarayan, profundo, embiable, de buen humer, y llene y conceeder del anory sefaladamente como Sarayan mismo. Un exitico famono dije que

Sarayan manos ha areade un personaje que no sea él mismo. La machache es una de las que sparecen muchas veces en la chun del Californiane, joven, tierna, a punte de descukrir el smer como el hallange más importante del mundo. Los dos personajes son exóticos, afrecen unafaerte contraste con el anhiente social y se ensuentran dentre de una minería, como todos los personajes de Sarayan. Los dos son redondos, pero el maride y los etros linchadores son siluetas, siguiendo tal vez la intensión del dramaturgo de dejar el anhiente generalizado como astor más importante que los linchadores partigulares.

El languaje y el diálogo de Saroyan no vienen de un elde afilado; vienen del corasón de un poeta romântico. Se poesía perece estar formada de tres partes más o menos iguales; de se propio liriemo, de arget y de fragmentos del pasade, como un verse de una cancián casi elvidada. Para quien quiera estudiar esta poesía, el que escribe estas lineas recemienda el detenide exemen del tercer acto de <u>A Incent Birth</u>, <u>A Hanny</u> <u>Dumaral</u>, especialmente el situe abierte que se acentua en más o menos cada décima línea dende Sareyan coleca una jeya de <u>apart</u> poética;

El estile de la abra es naturalista solemente en su situación y acción melodramáticas pero no podemos colificar los personajes y los otros elementos formales con el mismo término. Proceden del mundo, fantástico si el adjetivo guata, de Sareyan. Son elerendate expresiones de Sareyan mismo y sus

eresadian. y per ese. sinholon, pero cuendo el suor es la greencia principal de Serveran regulta en un cimbale tan conlia y de tente calor humane que es difícil penser de allo en los términes del simbolismo del evel hence sufride en al teatro nortemprisane. El simboliano es un sobrestile de la corriente remántice. e importe poco si Jaroyan es o ne un autor simbolista en Kelle Out Theres sleepre es un renés tico. Si convillanos vas lista de los elementos formales en los tres estilos-suís, verenes que <u>Mello Out There</u> se seyera de la corrieente romin tica alle en su contemporaneidad, an estructura neledramática y comflicto físico, reasos sás espectaristicos del estilo popular. El tono se nesela intelmente del tamitte interno remántico y del tamilto social popular. Los demás alementes farmales son remintions la llusion testral en ves An convenciones: les contrastes en zitue y tenne, el anteje sexual idealizado. una noción difuse ave nace de un inpulso y so resulty on un sestimiento, los personaies contrastantes tomades de una minería exética, un sabiente lejos de la vida ordinaria. * we leven to lirico y desertrenado

En une obre posterior, <u>det Amer Old Man</u>. Seroyan mesclé al máximum de neturalisme a su fantasia con los resultados mores felices, si la comparence con <u>Hello Ont There</u> e sus primores obres remántices,

La historia del tentre selamente muestra anteccéentes, muy generales y no muy sumejentes, para la obra de Sartyan y

especialmente para su extravagnacia. Las situaciones sen semejantes en espíritu a las del "teatro del grotesce" italiane. El tomo de Saroyan es el de un Vietor Hugo menes combetivo. Su entusiasmo, confisman y smor de la vida son los de un Shakespeare tedavía no disciplinade a la forma. Entre les escriteres de la primitiva novela episódica encontrames le más ceresno a Saroyan; sus personajes se asemejon a un híbride entre los de Jean Jacques Rousseau y los de Rabelais-si tal mesola es imaginable-pero sobre todo el mundo Saroyan se acerca al "shandiana" del Tio Tohy y del Cabo Trim-menos un tentite de la perversidad del autor, Laurence Sterne.

Los temas de Saroyan son los de la gran corriente romântica. Gegay da, con poca simpatía, un panoroma de los temas de Saroyani

Eager as Sereyen is to support the rights of little people, he dislikes both unlesses and communism because of their infringements on individual freedom. Idleness and alsohelism are infinitely more commendable than the serdid practice of salling things for profit, the only reasonable motive for acquiring wealth is for the pleasure of giving it away. Fermal education, particularly in College, spidle man's matural and charming ignorance. Romantic love is a beautiful and infinitely sed emotion, in family relationships, particularly between father and son and between brothers and sisters, is to be found the most tender expression of love, a motif in the plays smounting to a veritable cult of childhood.

Si no completemente juste, la observación de Gagay lo menos indica una parte del sabor romántico de las texas. El contenido de <u>Hello Out There</u> es romántico solamente en los símbelos; el significado liberal no lo es. El símbelo más

seliente es la ciudad de ener, Sen Francisco, un recuerdo do la fundación de Filadelfia per la "Sociedad de Anigos" cuando la nombreron "la ciudad del ener fraternal," Pero hoy en día este no es más que una layenda bonita en la Filadelfia de Moo Armenberg y los Biddley

Al es revecharse de Sen Francisco ceno minholo, Sarayan encode uno que en mucho es une verdad física, percue en riger San Francisco es. de las principales cludades portecesticanes. doude "más persones mism a alanion." En Hello es la "tiorra promotica" adende el jeven de la cárcel intenta mender a la muchache que ma. Para ella har la suscrencie de una "reselución felle" al lograra llogar a Sen Francisco: Kay tembién le suscerencie en Hello Out There de ous el sucr duraria los males del pueblecillo tejato, pero el drematurgo no dice nada de los pecibilidades curativas de la educación y del desarrando sconfizice, come que tions Son Transieco además del suer, porave di no exec en clina: Sureyen no dice côme se puede trany el mor a Natador: Telas, y nos da polamente la selución de la emigración, un proceso que en efecto ha ide producióndese en las residentes asticulas de Teles durente unas décadas a comas to de las nortesmericanos te triste anti-matini agriculteres de pectulie propieded. estin mence adaptedes al trabajo en la mova y gigante agricultura concreial que los de erigen mani de Das

El significado literal de la chera es una protesta «a com-45

tra de los linchamientos y en esto Saroyan defa a su obra sosuir le verdad naturalista en vez de resention El linchaie es une vieja costurbre nartacmericana que os estableció durante le colonicación del cocidente del país cuendo no había nosuridades per folte de una commissation política fila. Sin leves formales, los "charifes" ebeccoieres a la voluntad de les elementes establecides de la compidad 7 buscaron el meyo de ellos cuendo los problemos llegeron a sar demasiado grandes part el "cherift." Euchan veces los elementes respetables de la commidad no tuvieros necesidad del "cherife" y efectuaren au propia aleas de justicia popular a troche y moches Pero después de la suerre civil. Los venciéos del Suroncontreron on al linchemiento una zodide pera la coulte rosistancia a las tropas federales de competión y para la venganza contre los negros liberaida, quienes en algunos estadon teles como on Carolina del Sur, tenian control político de las logislatures.

Es más que clere que la smargura de valos modidas extremas refleja una confusión patelógica. La mejor expresión concisa, probablemente, en toda la literatura estadounidense de los sentimientos producidos en los "hombres de conciencia" que han visto un linchamiento, se expresa por Languten Hughés en su pecas "Song for a Dark Girl":

Way down South in Dixie (Dyeak the heart of me) They hang my black young lover To a group roads trees

Way down South in Dirie (Bruised body high in air) I asked the white Lord Josus What was the use of prayer. Way down South in Dirie (Break the heart of me) Love is a maked shadow On a gnarled and naked tree.

La única obra dramática referente al Linchaje que puede compararse con <u>Halla Oui There</u> es la de Paul Green, <u>in</u> <u>Abrahente Romen</u>, que obtuvo el premie Pulitzer y también fué un áxito comercial durante la temporada de 1926-27 en <u>Dramé-</u> Mar, En las escenas finales, el negro, persoguide y rendide de comencio, erusa los compos de redillas montrando las mismas emocionas y actitudes de un animal acorralado---una empresión plástica de la pasión del linchamiente cami tan fuerte come la poética de los versos de Hughes.

En las estadisticas del <u>Facid Almanas</u> venos que entre 1882 y 1948 se linebaron a 4718 permenas en los Estados Unidos. Embién venos que Sareyan tuvo una cierta justificación suando no especificó que el protagonista sea negre porque durante el periodo de 55 años se lincharon a 1260 personas blamons a la vez que a 3427 negres. Enl vez Sareyan quise separar cualitativamente el problema del linchaje del limade "problema negre." Para la mentalidad cualitativa es posible que sean problemas distintos, pero suantitivamente venos que en los Estados Unidos ha side des-tervice un problema negre.

Sereyan temblén tions bess objetive per heber situado

su obra en 20jas, que ha side sebrepasado súle per Massissippi y Georgia en el mínoro de linchemientes entre 1882 y 1947:

La cuerda emplesa a ser un minhele inquistante, hasta vorgonsoso sún para los pertiderios de la "supremacía blance." Bate se sellale en la tendencia a sustituír el linchaje per el alberete meial. 34 la cuinta década del sigle se mataren a más magros en la viciencia de los alberotos que en los linchimientes. Courrieron principalmente en les ciudades industriales del Morte y de California y reflejan tres tendencias sociales: (1) la registencia esda dia más grande del negre al nal tratos (2) la innortante emigración more de los blancos pebres de les pueblecilles del Sur a les centres industriales del Rertes (1) les contenses de la discriminación racial de parte de impertentes sectores de las minerías de immigrades curepecs les quals ya han vivide una generación e mis en les Estados Unidos y que ya quieron mostrar su reciente ignaldad económica y su masva "respectabilidad" al perseguir a les negros can los cuales habían vivido en pes en los barries pobrres durante sies. Riempla: los pelaces de Cloere, Illineis.

En la maxia década apareció una nuova variación viciente de la persecución de los negros-la banba anómina plantada en secreto en la noche dentre de la casa del negro-que zoflaja la mueva táctica "subterránes," ya que se enquentra di <u>in him blon</u> y etras erganizaciones terrezistas sebre la lio-

ta del Procurador General de los grupos "Zastistas, comuniatas, totalitarios y subversivos."^{2]} Ya entra el linchaje en su face mueva y más fec-el terror invisible-- y súle el eytimista perpotua puede desir con seguridad que la gran mayoría de los nortesmoricanos, avergensados de la viclencia (mcial, serán ennaces de controlar la minoría terrorista.

Hello Out There amerira un conceluiente de los problemas sociales más prefundo que mingume etra de las obres de Saroyen. Su obre ha side slessre caracterissée per la fautasía. el mor generalizade al pueble y al abegar por la hermandad del hasbre, pero le has criticade les isouierdistes per le vego de sus servizientes. Otras veces Saroyan ha expressão 10 and as aceres a la minantropie, en det Aver, did Men. an peer ebre probabilencate, cunque la mayoria de los nortesmoriennos viensan que tocaute a Mellywood el autor es libre de escribir ten suerze y negativemente como quiere. Más serie es la pérdida de su fe en el hembre-correspondiente al de Shekespeare en Realet-on la caricature antipática de los Chies en Love's Old Sweet Song. Enve respuests needs al gran comentarie de John Steinbeck, Gennes of Mrath, permite dadas considerables sobre las activides himenistas de Sareren. El cue este escribe se incline a pensar que Levela Old Sunet Sang fué al huses de un memonto en la busua volunted hacia los hambres per perte de Sareyan.

En casi tan dificil generalizar sebre la manera de pen-

sar de Seroyan come sobre si estile literarie, Anbes sen contradictorios pero quedan dentro de la corriente rumántica; especialmente sus activados; protesta y fantasia, inaginación, originalidad, empeñe de referendor, un herisonte humane que se abre; contradicatón de si misme y del giain dué, misticion me a baro del suor, reflejos de una sociedad insteble cerectoristianismo, subjetividad, una merelidad apasionada, y una perspectiva histórica; aunque limituda; Tedas son remánticad; Earoyan que nos guate e no, se el joven del sol estival y les estacios de irrigación del valle de San Joaquín y de los unapotos solitarios y las colles llonas és sonrigas de San Francisca;

En Hello Out Ebern Sevenne annestra Bentlauna eptimista que es su consistendation. En modio de une mitunción fen y victoute nos de la esperanne de que la michada se puede selver de los odios clagos de su clósa. Tal vez en el protagos mista además, hay une ligere sugerencia iconográfica de imagen de Calate que haée de mi musite une conclusión menos negetive; No equí une premise tépice de Sereyans un joven llone de amor tree la cortema del amor a une chica que lo coparaba, aunque matem al joven; En la lógice de Sereyan, este comclusión no es ten posimista;

La importancia de <u>Jalle Ost There</u> en mostro tiempe ha tenide una sela limitación, la consectal inherente a la forma de la chra en un acto. Se ha representado contenerse de veces

en el testro no constall y se ha atraido la atención de les eríticos no obstante la imposibilidad de una temperada comercial. Es la ebra dramática contemporanes más poderosa de las que tratan del linchaje y es superior a <u>La Prestituia Besnette</u> an de Jean Paul Sartes en todos aspetos saluo la falte de compronsión per parte del públice de los personajes remántices de Sarayan. Es la protesta social más importante_A aunque es pesible que en el fature se considerará una protesta su <u>Sem</u> **Esnis Henes.** En su prefecie a ésta, Sarayan babla de las asmsaciones de los eráticos de que la sbra es "comunista," pero el relate del viaje de una cama de una parte de la ciudad a etra parece ser, si alegárica, may difusa.

No hay correspondencia entre la obra naturalista en un acto y la corretazionetém reméntion de personajes enfrontades con un linchamiento que indicaria un equilibrio de forma y fondo servible a los historiséeres del textre estadounidence como arquetipo. La resén es probablemente que Saroyan se lievé por la consiente de los acopecimientos y ne fué au ser nomalmente subjectivo cuando escribié su fuice ensuye al drome de protesta social. Paul Green mostré una contradicción personal sensjante en la falte de equilibrio entre forme y contenido en <u>In Abrahamia Manno</u> y la gran protesta social dramética contra al linchaje queda por escribirse en los Eptados Unidons

NOTAS PARA SE GAPITULO UNO

1. Allowdree Micell, Mord & Strang from Associate to Associate to Associate Server and Company, 1950). P. (1990).

2. John Casener, Best Blars of the Medern Jacricen 2000 May Steene Series. (New Yards Grews Publichers, 01947).

1. John Howard Lawron, Theory and Secondary of Harrist And and Sereconstiting. (New York; C.Y. Publica's Sons, 01949). 19. 2766., 2058s.

4. Is proche scattlla más útil pare la programión lágica de une section dyamátics es la "proposición" de Villian 2. Talan. Piene mayor validos pare la tritica de obras en los ostaidoss discios y popular. Pare las obras estudiadas agui, la mayoria de ellas en el estile remártico, la prueba rovala may infromentatemente une acción de une lógica rightessa. Price describe may penciamente su proposición. "A dramatic Proposition is the brief legical statement er spilegism of that which has to be demonstrated by the Complete Action of the play. Its simplest and perhaps its universal form, so far as I have been able to discover, is a statement in three dismost first, the confitions of the Action, The third clauses first, the confitions of the Action, The third clauses involves the problem and may be put as a problem, " divade on Harrett H, Claute, Envoyen Encortes of the Irons with a Doplement on the Action fan and may be put as a problem, " divade on Harrett H, Claute, Envoyen Encortes of the Irons with a Doplement on the Action fan and may be put as a problem, " divade on Harrett H, Claute, Envoyen Encortes of the Irons Pablishers, Movies odition, di 947/2 p. 487.

5. Un suplemento útil a la proposición de Price será une clasificación de las siviaciones" que producen la acción. Sel es la pretensión, pero descraciadmente la protensión as puede contenerse, de George Pelti, <u>The Thirty-Six Dromatic Siviations</u> (Desten: The Writer, Inc. Hoprinted 1945). Los "mitunciones" de Pelti realmente describen conflictos en sus cumbres; y es suidente que el número de conflictos posibles esté máy corre de 17,000. Sin embargo, es clare que las "mitunciones" de Pelti vienen que ver com la soción, y la socián as el corneste de una ebra dremática. Por felte de etra clasificación de secience y perque un minero escalderable de escritores comercicles normes speriosnos, al consultan a Polti, deré pare sada une de las obres estudiadas aqui, su correspondiente "gituación" de Polti. Paro <u>Jean Are Mis Roets</u> ses al simero dal, la rebelión de un individuo que influye y compromete a enros, y el simero 200, may secondarismente, un campionto fuerrado por consigne y contingentes.

6. Ricell, m. cit. p. 900.

" Morard Mergan Faretar, Amorara at the former. How News Borrowart, Arnoe and Company, St. 2. Blandings a los point stantes and "planes" - "registers" as an dimensioners and anon an Internate All Arter Destinate, (Merleo, 3.3, s. 4. Sec. a an Internate All Arter Destinate, (Merleo, 3.3, s. 4. Sec. a Empile on Merleo, 1940) advers Min. Servers anternation & Merleo a filles on Merleo, 1940) advers Min. Servers anternation & Merleo Merley, " one as lo size dificult persue encompanies & Merleo Merley, " one as lo size dificult persue encompanies & Merleo Merley, and a lo size dificult persue encompanies & Merleo Merley, allowing Merleons & Merleo Merley, allowing Merleons, and anone and anone and anon Merley, a second a second and a second and a second and Merley, a second a second and a second and a second a second and Merley, a second a second and a second a second and a second and Merley, a second a second and a second a second a second and Merley, a second a second and a second and a second and a second a Merley, a second a second a second and a second a second a second and Merley, a second a second a second a second and a second a second a second a Merley, a second a second a second a second a second and a second a second and a Merley, a second a Merley, a second a

6, Generar, on, sit. p:556.

Rent (New Yorks Grown File Labore, 1944). 5.476

19. Weight, one site yelde

11. Gasener, en. cit. p. myli.

12. 1 Item.

1.) Gene Socia, "Art for Mark' Sale" on Shering Alle well moniv, no. 2. Pelowere, 1950. "The statement of sale mer mationalism and anti-sumprises feations is minimumed in plane for young and oncess 'Samphall' takes plane is an american blat school. It deals with the personaution of a Marry Ser Minimumed 'Snowhall') by a fact, algorizations of a Marry Ser distinguished 'Snowhall') by a fact, algorizations of a Marry Ser distinguished 'Snowhall') by a fact, algorizations of a Marry Ser distinguished 'Snowhall') by a fact, algorizations will consider when distinguished is daughter strand the same distance of the Marry S. D. J.

11. Gesmar, on, oit. J. zzvil.

15. Michael Straight (26.7, 20, 19) Indicting incommune of MARINAL FLANNING CONTRESS MEDICATION OF ADAY SCHEMENTER Of MARINAL FLANNING CONTRESS MEDICATION OF ADAY SCHEMENTER On Supporter 10, 1949, the Provident of the United Stores of his expective an OpenadoredianChief spectred the Introd Stores of all white and seme-unlike troops in the Arned Foreig. The Sector of the set the Alp Paper spiner to have deprive out the order of the Commander-dn-Chief. The Army, however, has feiled to do sol Although basic training in the Army of the United States is apparently conducted on both a segregated and non-segregated bals, unit estivation follows the currenery Jim Onew pelley which say the secres of difficulty, confusion and diagrass in would War II. Escont reports of rasial segregation of industees from states like Minimasta, which have prohibited rasial segregation in their State Estional Guard units, demonstrates that the Army is in fact spreading and extending the radial destrings... For the state of the states of the second states

16. Burns Hantle, The Beat Have of 1949-464 and the Year Book of the Brane in Intrine. (New York: Died, Med and Generay, 1946), p. Vie

17. Goumer, M. sit p. xevil.

18, Meall, and air, 9,908,

19. Machine Arth. Will, Marky, DA. 12. Malanhor, 1994.

20. Entre otres, Edward M. Gosty, Sandladion in Angeland James, (New York) Gelizable University Foreis, Second Fillering 1945), 5.112.

21. De las 36 "situaciendo" de Peixi, Helle Out Theme participa en tress número 602, 40 sutrimiente de un cantige injusto e une ensuistent el némoro 70, los despraciados reter des és as inica esperanse; y himero 2700, el descubrimiente de que la capeza de uno es una bribena o de mal escarter.

22. Gagay, on oits pulls,

2]. Pero al General Genral Marn Harn Hasely continue at express active y presponse segin the 1VO Bulletin, vol. We no. 1. "ATLANTA CHARFER (Ge.) The charter is endenvering to have Piedmant College turn down is effer similar to the Jufferson Kilitary College opinede. The spece George Armstonian with General George Van Horn Mesely is trying to "buy" this college on the condition it teach race supremacy ideas. The chapter has demonated Armstonian and Mesely for wrying to estably lish a beachmed for tetalitarianian." p.T. Capitulo Dos

LA GUERRA Y LOS MERCADERES DE LA GUERRA

. ³1

Bury the Dead

Born Yesterday

En este capítulo se consideran el grupo de obras que van en contra de la guerra y se pueden dividir en dos partes: las obras que contienen protestas generales antibélicas, y las obras que protestan contran los abusos de los negociantes de la guerra. Las primeras incluyen <u>Aria da Cano</u> de Edna St. Vincent Millay, presentada por <u>The Provincetora Plavers en</u> 1919: <u>hat Price Glory?</u> de Haxwell Anderson y Laurence Stallings, presentada por Arthur Hopkins en 1924; <u>Pence en Earth</u> de George Sklar y Albert Malta, escenificada por la <u>Theatre</u> Juion en 1933; el drama musical Johnny Johnson, de Paul Green, con aúsica de Eurt Weill, presentada por <u>Groun Theatre</u> en 1936; y Eury the Dead de Irwin Shaw, presentada por Actors <u>Pre-</u> pertory Company en 1936. También merecan mengionarse por su excelencia artística las obras poéticus antibélicas de Archibald MacLeish para la radio.

Las obras que protestan contra la explotación por los civiles en tiempo de guerra son: <u>Born Yesterday</u>, de Garson Kanin, presentada por Max Cordon en 1946; y <u>All My Sons</u>, de arthur Miller, producida por Harold Clumnen, Elie Kazan y Walter Fried en 1947, que recibió el premio <u>Critics Circle Amari</u> el mismo año. (El jurado encargado para el <u>Pulitzer Prise</u> rehusó seleccionar una obra para 1947). Aunque podrían incluirse otras obras de menos categoría artística, óstas son las más importantes. No son todas de la misma calidad drémática, y en la epinión del que escribe. La mejor protesta generalizada

es <u>Bury the Dead</u>; y el mejor estudio de los abusos de los espitalistas civiles en tiempe de guerra es <u>Born Yesterday</u>. Ambas serán estudiadas detalladamente en este conítulo.

Bury the Daed tuvo para al autor de estas líneas una importancia inmediata y real, cuando empezá a ensayarla con un gruno universitario, bajo la dirección del maestro Fernando Wagner, pocas semanas después de abrirse el conflicto entre los nortesmericanos y los nortecoreanos el 25 de junio de 1951. La primera impresión que la obra causó fué la de lo herrible y lo fee. llevendo en sí su propia estética y su propia unidad artistica semejante al barroco precortesiano. Para el norteemericano cuya apreciación de lo feo y lo horrible termina con Edger Allen Poe, la reacción emotiva ente la obre se limita a un escalafria, no claramente definido¹ entre si es agradable o nos etra impresión sra el sentimiento de esperansa de que la gente tenga el poder de deshacer a los militaristas: etra más era la mescla de buen humor, sutil en medio de todo lo horrible que contradice el juicie de Atkinson acerca de la "amargura"² de la obres una tercera impresión immediata es que Bury the Dead as una verdadera obra teatral; no as thra literaria para apreciarse en la biblioteca.

Un primer análizis formal revela que la obra es de un acto en 20 episodios, del género de la pieza, con menos "problema" o "tesis" que protesta y una llamada a la acción directa.

Roisodio 1: En un campo de batalla algunos soldados diri-

gidos per un sargento, están cavando tumbas para los muertos. Los soldados quieren acabar los entierros rápidemente perque los cuerpos spesten, pero deben esperar los servicios fumerarios a cargo de un sacerdote y un rabino. Al estar resando, uno de los soldados que un gemido y en seguida todos los cuerpes se paran pidiendo que no. se los entierre. El sargento va a buscar al capitán, quien dice "Lo esparabe--un día. /Tantos hombres cada día!"

Episodio 2: El capitán intenta explicar al problema a tres generales, Ellos piensan que al capitán ha estado bebiendo y ordenan a un doctor y una taquigrafa que inspeccionen los cuerpos y rindan un informe medico, oficial para determinar si es que están muertos o vivos.

Enicodio 3: El doctor revisa enda uno de los cadáveros diagnesticando la cuma de cada uno de los muertos y nota que todos han sido muertos hace 48 heras. Testigos confirman las actas, une de los múertos regala un cigarro a une de los soldados, y el doctor acepta con ganas un trago cuando el cepitán lo círece de su frasco.

Episodio 4: El doctor informa a los generales que los seis hembres están muertos pero de pió, en sus tumbas, negándose a ser enterrados. Ante este informe uno de los generales eres que "todo el maldito ejército está berracho," Previenen uno al otro de coultarle.

<u>Evisedie 5:</u> Dos soldados en el frente disouten el chisme

de que seis cadéveres no permiten que los entierren. No estén de acuerde sobre lo que debe hacerse con ellos, y una smetralladora del enemigo mata a uno de ellos, y luego al otre.

<u>Inimidio 6</u>: En la redacción de un periódico un periodizta insiste en que se publique la crónica, pero su jefe, después de una llamada por telefono, lo suprime porque "Así lo quiere el gobierno."

<u>Enimodio 7</u>: Los generales llegan a la tumba, une de ellos intenta convencer a los cadáveres que están muertos, y cuando no le hacen caso, da una orden directa de que se dejen enterrar. Tabién a ésta no hacen caso,

<u>Enisodio 8</u>; En una esquina. Una prostituta dice a la otra "Puve los acostaría yo, No doben llamar, los acostaría... Compartir el segrificio-Ja, Dios mio, " Sus risas siguen en la obscuridad.

Epigodie 9: El capitán, mandado por los generales, intenta una vez más empleando el tono filosófico, persuadir a les seis que se dejen enterrar, Cada uno relata cómo murió y no hace caso a las súplicas del capitán,

<u>Enigodio 10</u>: Un montajo, "el frente doméstico," Hombres de negocios, un cura, uno de los generales, un periodista y un locutor de radio se disgustan de que sus "valientes muchaches muertes" no se dejan esterrar,

<u>Episodio 11</u>: El cepitón suglere a los generale que manden a las mujeres de los seis muertos. "Las mujeres sen siempre

más conservadores, Es una idea conservadora ésta de acostarse y dejarse enterrar cuando se muare, * El departamente de guerra disemina una súplica por radio a las seis mujeres.

Eniscito 12: Un general hable a las seis "háblenles, héganles ver les errores del comine que siguen, damas véyanse, damas hagen sus deberes. Su patria les espera..."

<u>Enimedia 11</u>: John Schelling, cadéver mémero dos le dice a su mujer, "Mi lugar está en la tierra, Bess, Mis negocios están en la superficio, no bajo tierra." Cuando ella insiste que se deje enterrar, él la dice "Vete a camp, Bess, /Vete a esamj"

Enisodio 14: Jean quiere saber si el cabo Levy, cadáver número cinco, la quiso más que a otras e no, pero él piensa que eso ya no tiene mayor importancia. El quiere "cominar per el mundo, mirando a las muchachas de piermas largas, viendo en ellas algo hendo y verdadoro y apasionadamente vital..."

Enisodie 15: Margan, endéver número suatro, le dice a Julia Miake, "Hay demasiades libros que no be leido, demasiados lugares que no be visto, demasiados recuerdos que no be guardade lo suficiente..., no seré privado de ellos." Pero ella se pega un tiro pura que su nombre tembién puede figurar en la lista de los "infortunados" y para¹⁰Seguir temando y viviendo sin él.

Enisodie 16: Ten Driscell, eadkver número uno, escucha a su hormana, a la que no ha viste en 15 años, decir, "Estás

musrto. Tu lucha está terminada," y él contesta, "Le lucha nunca está terminada. Tengo demaniadas cosas que decir a la gente ahora para merir-a la gente que cuida máquinas grandes y a la gente que trabaja con palas y a la gente cuyes chiquites mueren con estémagos gigantes y hueses podridos. Tengo cosas que decir a la gente que deja sus vidas atrás y agarra los fuelles para pelear en la guerra de etro. Comos impeirtantes. Cosas grandes..."

<u>Enicodie 17</u>: Dean, cadéver número seis, le dice a su madre, "Pasé veinte años practicendo cómo ser un hombro para que elles me materen,"

Episodio 18: La espesa de Vebster, cadéver número tres, lo maldice por haber esperado hasta que estuviera muerto, para defender sus derechos y los de su espesa, y por no haberlo hecho antes cuando no podía mantemerios gamando 18 délares la sumano.

Episodio 19: Ya que el filtimo de los cuerpor mehuma acomtarse, el general trata en vano de evitar que la noticia llogue a los periódices, pero los encabezados gritan "Ne dió resultade." En un montaje de seis partes, voces del pueble discuten lo que han hecho los cadáveres, y la iglesia, representada por un sacerdote, trata de hacer le que el estade ne pudo, pero los cadáveres sále se ríon y rehuman ser enterrados.

<u>Solucio 20</u>: Un general ordena que los cuerpos sean acribillados con una anetralladora pero los soldados se niegan a manejar el axua, Tiene que hacerlo él mismo, pero los cadáveres salon de la tumba dando cara a la instralladora, que está

disperendo, y seguidos de cuatro sol**undos** vivos, se van, dejando al general tirado sebre su arma silenaiosa apuntada a la tumba vasía.

El movimiento de la acción tiene un <u>termo</u> répido, "periodístico,"³ excepte en las meis encenas con las mujeres las cuales tienen varios <u>termos</u> derivados del interés sexual: lotárgico entre Bess y Schelling; <u>blasé</u> entre Joan y Levy, frustrado entre Webster y su esposa, etc. Hay un interés intensificada en estas escenas como resultado de la agadas sexual en varios parlementos. El ritme es brusco, "staccato"; ⁴ sugisre mulios espandes.

Le estructura es de una envolture para abrir y cerrar la obra que encierra las escenas de las mujeres ligados a buse de una "técnica de goot,"⁵ El bfecte general es panoránico, easi cinemáteoráfico.

La légica de la acción, ⁶ según la "proposición" de Prise, es medio dóbil, pero no produce una obra dóbil:

A. Unos soldados muertos no quieren ser enterrados y rochasem a las enteridades militares, quienes para evitar al escándolo, utilizan la persuasión en vas de la fuersa bruta.

B. Les autoridades mandan a las mujeres de los soldados a ejercor su fuerza conservadora persuaniva, pero éstas fracasan.

C. Los soldados muertos no hugen caso de la emotralladora de un general y salon de la escena para despertar en la gente la rebelión contra la guerra.

La línea de acción interior es más fuerte que la exterior y falta mucho pera llegar al equilibric que marca <u>Meiting for</u> Lefty, una obra de protesta que utiliza un técnica y una estructura casi idéntica. <u>Envy the Dead</u> intenta lograr por medie de la "atmósfera" y la calidad pietérica lo que <u>lafty</u> legré per una convicción spasionada y contegiosa. Y en donde <u>Lefty es románticamente social</u>, <u>Envy the Dead</u> es románticemente introspectiva. <u>Envy the Deaf y Hello Out There</u> tienen las líneas interiores de acción más dominantes, y sen las más pománticas, de la siete obras que estudiarence.

El texte lleve las aiguidutes instrucciones para el tienpe y el lugar: tiempo, el segundo año de la guerra que va a empesar al día siguiente per la noche (en al diálogo hablan del eño 1937); lugar, un compo de batallo, unas millas atrás del frente, representado por una plataforma negra que cubre todo el fondo, más alta que un hombre, con sacos de arena encima. Entre ella y el público, la escena está desmuda y las escenas intercoladas ecouren en este espacio. El lugar específico de la acción no se establuca, dEuropa? dlos Estedos Unides?...

Le iluminación contribuye a definir el espacio más que la propia escenografícë la principal atmósfera concreta es de lodo; la iluminación es lodosa; el diálogo habla del lodo; en la escena hay montones de tierra, los sacos de arena son mugrosos, la plataforma es de color megro. Para acompañar al lodo, menos concretemente se usa el alor de los cadáveres podrides, establecido por sugereneins del diálogo. Es un sold-

ente que participe plememente en la acción de la obra. Todo es feo y herrible; vodo contradice las anteriores "buenes cosas de la tierra" de las cuales hablan los personajes en las seis escenas intercaladas.

Lus personajes se dividen en des grupes y regiben des tratemientes distintes. Les muertes, el capitán, les seldades encargades del entierro, Hess Schelling, y hasta cierte punts, el sargento, sen les "positives": simpáticos y con caler humano; se aman por sus faltas. Pero les personajes institutionales, les generales, les pelíticos, les ministres de la iglesia, les periodistas y algunas de las mujeres sen negatives y de des dimensiones e "tipes," Algunes sen essi caricaturas, les falta algo para ser personas de carne y hueses

Tocante a su sub-estile toatral histórico, la obra es llamada "expresionista," per Gassner, ⁷ "seui-expresionista... fantasía con la spariencia de realismo, "⁸ per O'Hara y "alegérica"⁹ per Gorelik, pere súlo los episodios de nontaje tienen formas expresionistas. "Simbelista," el estile dominante todavía en el teatro contemporáneo de los Estados Unidos, parece el mejor téxmine descriptivo al que esto escribe; y probablemente Gorelik quiso decir "simbolista" con su término "alegérica," El estile es más a base de ilumiña que de convenciones teatrales, aunque la téonica de <u>blackout</u> mersoe más estudio come convención del tentre contemporáneo, en sus dos empleos de lugar y tiempo y en la sugerencia melanofilica que

muchas veces lleve en si. 10

El estile de <u>Bury ine Decd</u>, la primera obre de Shaw, es más definido y unificado que sus obras obres. El mismo "simbelismo," y el mismo género de la pieza se encuentran en <u>The</u> <u>Gentle Possie</u>, pero mistificado por agregar a la fábula de dos asesines moralistas un toque franciscano. Sus otras obras muestrem la peligresa tendencia del teatro nortesmoricano a nublarse en el estilo "simbolista," particulamente cuando trata de asuntos de la vida cotidiana burguesa. La obra de Clifforé Odeta, la de Maxmell Anderson y la de Arthur Miller tenblén muestren esta tendencia.

El diálogo no lleva el sello personal del dramaturgo mi es de sus personajes, excepto en los passies "líxicos" donde es completemente suyo pero un poco forzado. El resto del diálogo es buena prosa, m tural a los personajes-lo que no quiere degir que sea un lenguajo callejero. Es el habiar fuerte de personas ordinarias en una de las pocas y verdaderas orisis en la cuales estés profundamente enojados o ultrajedos. Es la elocuencia de protesta de la que es capas todo hombre y la cual es dada para expresar pocas veços durante su vida.

Los passies "lírices" muestran zuches dofectos sencientes a aqualles de Tennessee Williama. Cuando se trabaja en el estilo simbolista se quiebra éste con la digresiones líricas y personales del eutor que se admiran como "poesía" por los eríticos superficiales y que aún un crítico como Gasader llama

"fantasia." Esta sellal prevalente de una desorientación oritica entre los críticos y los drematurgos por iguel, probablemente tisme su rais en la demasiada lectura de los polemicistas, encabezados por Maxwell Anderson, en favor de "un teatre poótico," en la demasiada imitación de Shakespeare, en el demasiado estudio del arxet, y en al demasiado poso estudio de los posmas dremáticos de Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost y Archibald MacLeish.

An mucho, el estile de <u>Bury the Dead</u> es una illustración de la teoría del "teatro ejemplar" de Granvillo-Banker, propagada en los Estados Unidos por Ludwig Lewischn. No llega e la economía de los recursos de la obra gran corriente del teotro social contemporáneo, el "teatro épico" de Brocht y sus fábulas orientales, ni las convenciones de elles; es complotamente una obra illusionista, sigue la completa aceptación de Granvillo-Barker de la illusión teatral.

Las amosiones más fuertas de la obra parecen brotar del fondo y del diálogo (le feo, lo horrible y lo cómico) y en menor grado, de la caracterisación y de la acción (la esperamsa de la vistoria morel de la gente sobre los militaristas).

Las antecedentes del tema, la estructura y el argumente de <u>Hury the Daad</u> que encontrance en la historia del teatro son tress (1) El tema general como protesta en contra de la guerre es antiguo; la encontranes en <u>Lysistrate</u> de Aristófanes. (2) La fábula es muy parecide a la de <u>El Milagre en Verdun^{1,2}</u>

del austriaco Hans Schlumberg. Es cierto que las dos obras tienen la misma "situsción" básies: seldados muertos no quieren ser enterrados y causan un escándelo internacional. Pero las soluciones son completamente distintas. En la obra de Schlumberg, el protagonista degnierta y descubre que tode ha sido un sucho en tento que Shew utilize la situación para una llanada revolucionaria a la acción directa. (3) La estructura de envelope para abrir y cerrar la obra y para centenar las escenas internas de spot es iqual due la de Waiting for Lefty. y es semejante a la que José Lison adapté a las corecerafías de "la Malinche" y de "La Historia de la Humanidad" (en Mérico a fines de septiembre de 1950), también se perses a muchos de los pecas de Walt Whitmen. También debe considerarse como pariente de la estructura de "la comedia dentro de la comedia" empleada por Shakespeare. entre stres. 21 nombre del clásico posta indis tras a la monoria The Tening of the Shrew que poguremonte incluye la primera mitad de una estructura de gavelong on los vextos que congesnos. La lógica dramática que ingiste en etro episodio con Caristopher Sly al final de la obra es ten fuerto (algunes directores han fabricado tel escena final) que uno se siente tentade a pensar que el great shownen of Avon no le dejó sin everibir y que el episodio final de Siy hubiera sido perdido en las vicisitades de transperter la obra de Shakespeare dal sigle XVI al sigle XX.

Con un toma de aristéfenes y une situación de Schlumberg.

Shaw muestra su originalidad más grande en escogar y tomar para si la estructure de la obra de Odeta del año anterior, une forma que es la mejor adaptada hasta la focha en el teatre nortesmericano al drama social.¹³ Aún supera <u>Bary the Dead</u> a <u>Waiting for Lefty</u> en la succaión armoniosa de las escenas, usendo la misma estructura. Pero falta el "reconocimiento" y la urgencia que Odete ha dado apasionadamente a <u>Waiting for</u> Lefty.

ina interpretación dramática que es simboliste en su técnica y es un estilo unificado, no da tanto énfasis a los símbolos particulares que contenga. Basta mencionar los símbolos internas y fuertes de <u>La Gavieta e Jardin de los Cáreses</u> de Chejev que occuren en obras de estilo <u>no simbolista</u>. Estas obras no sen símbolos en aí y por ese los símbolos individuales dentre de las obras son muy fuertes. Pero al contrario en una obra completamente simboliste como <u>Sinterest</u> de Manvall Anderson e <u>Aría da Gano</u> de Edna St. Vincent Millay sería exagerado y rédiculo relienar la obra con símbolos detallades; <u>Eux the Dasi</u>, ecno símbolo complete en aj, participa en esta falta de símbolos menores excepto en al case del final de la ebra.

La concepción entera de la obra se de robeldía en contra de la guerra, pero la conclusión es sún más revolucionaria. Ineita a la acción inmediata y al movimiente revolucionario popular cuando en la estena los soldados muertos salen diri-

giéndose al pueble y los saldados vives, encargados de enterrarles, los siguen haciendo gestes rebaldos de desprecio al"geueral de la armatralladora."

La exhertación revelucionaria tiene más significade simbálice que literal como es natural, dado que Sham, cuando mucho, dra un revolucionario muy teórico.

Es dificil estar de acuerde cen Eruteh suando dice "les primeros 20 minutes presentan,..la parte más interesante de la obra entera, al4 El tratemiente final, símbole revelucionario, es le principal que distingue <u>Rury the Dand</u> de la obra antibélica autorior de Siéney Howard, <u>Patha of Glarr</u>, 1935, y es esta llamada revolucionaria que hace durar <u>Rury the Dand</u> micatras que la obra de Howard ya no se pene en la escena.

El significade literal es más obvie, Es anti-bélico, antimilitarista y dice: gustad de las buenas comas de la tierra mientras que estáis en ella, Adomás de la esperansa de una victeria meral del yueble sobre les militaristas. Otras sugeroneias sen las de la estugides, brutalidad e instilidad de los altes eficiales militares.

iqué hay en el fonde de la historia contemperánea que explique un ataque tan dure a les militares? Mientras que el "Eratado Briand-Kallegg" del 27 de agosto de 1928 en contra de la guerra tedavía expresaba perfectamente los continientes del pueble nortesmericame, los Japoneses invadieren a Manchuria en septiembre de 1931, después del "Mukden incident," y un afie

después establecieren el "estado," Manchuluno,

Varios mortesmoriesmos de importancia macional abegarem para una "guerra profiléctica" para sacar a los Japoneses de Chime, pere el pueblo no hise más que dar su condemnación meral a Japón. Entre estubre de 1935 y mayo de 1936, Muselini conquistó a Etiopia, mientras Hitler empesó como militarista en el Entr, En noviembre de 1935 la lucha de Máximo Mitvineff y Anthony Eden en la Mága de las Baciones para lograr una acción en contra de Italia murió sin un apegro popular, el cuel no llogaba más allá de una sumejante condenación moral. Todo el mundo rechasó las guerras preventivas.

El pueblo nortesmericano después de haber luchado en la primera guerra mundial para "salvar la democratia," la vió perdida en los Estados Unidos con la vielencia pública de los veterenos de la <u>American Lesion</u>, y con los masseres irresponsables de los "guardias nacionales" baje las erdenas de pelíticos provinciales, pagados por los capitalistas,¹⁵ Ne quise el pueblo pelear en una segunda "guerra para acabar con las guerras," Escuerda el escritor su entrada en las salas de una escuela secundaria en California, en septiembre de 1935, dende en muchas salas los masstros habías puesto carteles grandes, ilustrativos de los costos inátiles y antisociales de la gimera guerra mundial.

Este era el clima moral entences, cuando escribió Shaw <u>Buy</u> <u>The Deads</u> pacifimme y condenación <u>moral</u> centra los agresores in-



ternacionales. La ocasión procisa para escribir la ebre, sabemos que era el concurso expadronado per un grupo teatral inquirerdista.¹⁶

Pero los tiempos combian-répidemente,

Los ágquierdistas, quienes eran un sector importante del patifisme nortesmericano, después de que empené la guerra elvil en España y el ataque japonés con plema fuerma en China después de julio de 1937, llegaron a sus límites de patiencia; y de patifisme, y combiaron su posición para insistir en el antifascismo militante y mundial. También, los patifistas "intelectuales" de las universidades, ya enfrentados con las seisles elaras de la guerra mundial que iba a empesar dentro de tres años, retrocedieron de su posición patifista y abogaren para la "neutralidad." En este cambie estaba cogido <u>Bary iba</u> Enads hatía meses, había retibido el splause de toda la inquierda. Después del triunfe de France, la obra fué considerade "peca política." Se quité la obra mientras que las de Odete siguieren triumfentes en el importante teatro de la inquierda.

De la misma agradable manera que pormitió quitar su obra cuando paracia segura la guerra, Shan también era liste para seguir la mueva línea comunista del antifascismo. El resultade de este empeñe apareció en 1939 en la fantasia <u>The Gentia</u> <u>Pagala</u> de des viejes amables que matam a in <u>gangater</u> y le tiran al mar suando no puedem pensar etra manera de evitar sus amenans. Naturalmente esta obra también era "embarasa; duraz-

te la existencia corta del parto Hitler-Stalin. El autor del presente estudio no pueda incluir Shaw en la disculpa general que de Gagey a los drumatufges pacifistas:

The leftist writers held out as long as possible for pacifism, since this was one of the cardinal tenets in their propaganda directed at American youth, but somer or later events forced all dramatists to reverse their position on war.

Pero entre la multitud no hay protección para Shar perque el ne es culpable sólo de una "volteade," sino de tres, Después de autorisar el retiro de <u>Dany the Dead</u> para la segunda guerra mundial, Shaw mireba etra vez con agrado las representaciones durante la postguerra, y, después de que empesé el episedie de Corea, volvió a prohibirla en una declaración públicas

Recently Mr. Show directed his agents to refuse permission to present <u>Bury the Dad</u>. In a letter to the drame editor of the <u>New York Times</u>. Mr. Shew explained why he withdrew his peace play from pessible production.

... Bury the land... was a play which exponded the possionate revulsion against the horrers of war and the fear of another war which was so much a part of the emotional climate of the Einsteen Thirties, a revulsion which was reflocted in such other anti-war plays of the time as <u>light</u> mlight, Tan Million Gasts, and Johnny Johnson.

"It also reflected a belief, which now soons impossibly maive, that by appealing to reason and sentiment war might be forever halted. Since then we have been forced into one war by men in Germany and Japan who clearly demonstrated their immunity to reason and sentiment. As a soldier I new enough of the ageny of war to make my original revulsion strenger than ever. Putting on my civilian clothes once more, I put on again my civilian belief in the pessibility of peace through reason and sentiment.

"Now five years later, the rulers of Russia have demonstrated that the gentle hopes of 1950 are as haive as they were in 1935. Invading, killing, destroying, they preclaim with monstrous cynicism that they are supporters of worldwide peace. In a spectacle of complete moral curruption, their adherents in this country wave peace pledges and potitions while their Communist game are killing American soldiers.

"It is to balk these double-tongued gentlemen, with whatever small means are at my dispesal, that I have withdream my play. I do not wish the forflorn longings and illusions of 1935 to be used as annunition for the killers of 1950. I still hope passionately for peace-but not for peace that is malestive, and divisible at will, not peace that is a political alogan and a military instrument, but peace that is real, general, and complete.

Podríanos deducir que Shaw quiere "todo e nada de la pazy" que al hay guerra regional hay que tener de una vez una guerra mundial, do podríanos deducir que Shaw es partidario de "dada econ en su timpe"? Acusé una vez a los eriticos de tener setitudes pelíticas que "parecen un liberdiam emerica".⁹ y ahora di se encuentra condenado por su propia acusación.

Si <u>Bury the Band</u> are pacifiste y revolucionarie, <u>The Gentle</u> <u>People</u> are revolucionarie y partiderie de la guerre franciscome, y las obras posterieres de Shaw eren de la inquierde moderade y ruminisconcies personales de la disintegración de la vide burguese de su miliex. Entre 1936 y 1939-corresponde a la edad de 22 a 25 años del autor-Shaw ere del pensemiento "radical" y se ibe moderando y reconciliándose con su provie embiente burgués. Ere joven y algo epertuniste. Tal carrere es usual entre los escritores universitarios que no ban heche etre cosa que escribir en su vida, especialmente cuando queden demasiado timpo en Hellywood e con las cadenas nacionales de radie, Nums Hantle de unes datos de la vide de Shaw anterior a 1936:

Young Mr. Shaw...lives in Brocklyn, though he was born in Manhattan...He had been writing radio scripts for a detective story continuity when the radio scouts found him and sent him to Hellywood. In picture land he had been deing football stories, having played football when he was a student at Brocklyn College. His early ambition, insofar as it was associated with the theatre, he relates was to be "polite, pelished and luxuriantly idde, and to write that kind of play, none of which things has been vouchsafed me. "20

De manera que era una aberración para el joven Shaw temperada en el teatro social y que ha regresado a de donde venís.

Al lado del cambio en el contenido de las obras de Shaw, es interesante observar la gegeneración de la calidad artistica. Sin ofrecer un juicio personal, el que escribe no más indica la lista de los fracasos después de <u>Bury the Dead: Siege, 1937; The</u> <u>Quiet City; The Golden Years, Retreat to Pleasure; Sons and Sol-</u> <u>diers, 1943; The Assessin, 1945.</u>

En síntesis, entonces, Jouál era y cuál es la importancia de <u>Bury the Dead</u>? Tuvo un éxito artístico. Tuvo una influencia grande en la política de los Estados Unidos; era un <u>succés</u>: <u>de</u> <u>scandale</u>; era una molestia a la izquierda ya militante, auteriormente de acuerdo xon los pacifistas, era del clima de la "Ley Johnson" y la neutralidad nortesmericana hacia España. Desde 1936 ha sido presentado varios centenares de veces en los teatros universitarios y de comunidad en los Estados Unidos.²¹

¿Era una protesta efectiva? Si la protesta eficas es la que exprésa la conciencia, los sentimientos y las esperansas del pueble, <u>Bury the Dead</u> era eficas entre 1936 y 1939. También lo era durante los años de la guerra si aceptanos que una cancién popular expresa el espísitu del pueblo. Los dos temas principa-

los de la elem-me querer merir some seldado, y gustar las hesmas essas de ^{la}tioura---se entrentran, la mitañ en serie, la mitad en ekiste, en una esneién de los seldados británicos y nortemericanos de la segunda guerra mundial:

I den't want to join your 2----ing anny I den't want to go anny to war I'd rather stay at home, my bloody 2----dag home A'living off the carmings of my whore, God bloos bor; I den't want to join your 2----dag anny I den't ment my bubbooks shot anny I'd rather be a blightle, a blooming 2----dag blightle So I could 2----- my bloody life many.

SL are une protoste effess y lo es afe más her en die ye ens la benba aténica es un problema mandial: Si continte en est posición actual de ser la mejer "pieza seria" pacifista, eque 10 as on 1a coinion del que escrive. Non the Dead potrie 110gar a ser un clásico universal. Para Márico el problema de la nes. y obras come Bury the Dead. tienen uns importancia transcondental al "las morras de los Catados Valdos son las susrras de Mixion. "Sound diens varios eluisos "henistiricos." Pero el Subsecretario de Belaciones Exteriores de México. el Sr. Tellos ha ganade al yespete del humisfere entere per haber insistide en que las tropas latino-concridence se envilent selanente para la defensa del benisfero. El Presidente Trumen, a peser de sus present de pelear en apoyo de los caciones resocionaries y les poderes colquiales europées en tods la periferia agiática, muestra con el retiro de Macarthur que no quiere provocar en este menonto una teresra guerra mundial:

Pero Shar tiene rasin, es un tienpo my inconveniente para une buine dure perificient

Durante los años de la suaria decada del sigle el ensaige general de les pasifistas fue la guerra y su odie especial se dirigía contra les fabricantes de las anteriales de guerra. Era la epoca de las revelaciores de las sampementas entre les Vichers, les Schneider y les Krupp en la prémara guerra munitàl. Les escriteres "esmansionales" come George Seldes, (anguban y propagaban la frace "les conserciantes de la querfa." En aquel entences antes de que um compaña de propaganta rediafonica, larga y costes, "sion per sientemericanage" hubiera conventide al público de que "Da Fent means better things through chemistry," el nembre de les fabricantes de explosives del estado de Delaware tenía el mismo efecto para un pacifista que la cupa del teresder tiene para el toro. La obra turáral, <u>fence en Eurit</u>, refleja el punto álgide del centimiente en contra de las fabricantes de armas, como le refleja tambien entences la irónica consión política-popular de L.S. Oufft, <u>There Are Three Bre-</u> there:

There are three brothers maned Du Pent. Antricts are they. They make their profits from manitions in an honest way. They love their country right or wrong. But when you or liras come along They always very cheerfully to any mation sell Shells that will all armor pierce and armor that will stop each shell.

Poco a pozo mientres que Du Pont con eu química dejaba may chiquito al guesno de gada, la rabia en contra de los comerciantos de la muerte se transformó en un nueve edio hacia un grupo mie general que venía a tener el nombre de mercaderes de la guerra. Tal cambio muestra una elerta perspisanta intuitiva entre la gente perque, desde la guerra eivil en los Estados Unidos y las compañas posteriores de la caballería en contra de los indice del territoria arrebatado a Mánico en 1848, los

astutos hombres de megosios han subido, como la Argentian este hoy en día, que el abastocimiente en carme de los ejercitos es tan fructifere como el comercio de armas.

Desde el momente que la ley <u>Lett-Lenne</u> suguraba la participación de los Estados Unidos en la segunda guerra mundial y que los elevados salarios de los obreros servían de indice elecumnte de las gummeias de los empresarios, benaficiarios de los "contrates de defensa," el muvo villano de la piesa, el comerciante de la guerra, vine a ser el punte de mira del pueblo. Y cuendo terminó la guerra Carson Manin habia ya courite <u>Born Mentering</u>, magnifice estudio de une de estes villanos que había hoche su fortuna en un ambiente humildo, el de los obsterreros.

El que este escribe hime el concemiente del gran chaterrere en la antelogia de Gassner de las mejores ebras del periode de la guerra.²² Felimente para el lector, <u>herr Xegiering</u> es del tipo meleste de comdia que no necesita tode el auxilio de la escena para hacer reir a la gente. Al contrerio, menhas veses comejante diálego resulta une graciono heide que oldo mientras los asteres le comen. La lectura bastaba para provocar en el lector el repetide elegio, "la mejor comedia que se ha escrito en los Estados Unidos desde que comenté la guerra."

Tal alogido no es un superiativo perque la consdia americana en los anos reclontes no ha side may brillânte. Al monos des criticos inteligentes, O¹Mare y Eleanor Flexner, han dedicade ceda uno la sunyta parte de un volumen a lamentares de que la a consdia contemporanes a pesar de algunas gracias esrecia de le esencial: proveenr la rise. Reté may bien que el tentre estadounidence se haya témmie a sí mismo en serie como le ha heshé, pare no basta ser serie, tele tentre importante tione una conseita tembien. Tal vez el obstacule más granie ha side la veza subjetiva en ciertes drumturges jevenes, demainde convencidos de

la exquisites de sus sentimientos más profundos. Otro ha sido el descubrimiente de que, si hay bastante color en el decorado y música y piernês suficientos en als obra, la produsción puede mantemerse en taquilla aún sin risas, o cuando mucho con la ayuda de un selo payaso de <u>yaudevillo</u> traído a escena de entre los viejos trastos ya elvidados.

<u>Bern Yesterday</u>, al contrario, es muy grasiesa de un cabe al otro y quimas es ésta la ramon per la cual de destaca en la comedia de la postguerra. Harry Brock es chistose suande amenna al Senador con mandarlo otra vez a la Asociación de Jovenes Cristianes, y la ignorancia de Billie Dawn proveca la risa suande dice a Marry él es <u>not comth</u>. El diáloge es divertide pero los mejores réplicas y escenas están construidas a base del "humor de caracter." Las reacciones mún vivas de la obra provienen de Harry y Billie, de elles mismos, y no de las comas grasiceas que elles dicen.

El género de la obra es el de la constita de costumbres, principalmente porque el autor no se procupa de hacer de Harry Breck un villano; Kanin al igual de un autor de meledrama, piense que todo el publice estará en contra de Harry. Pere en un meledrama el villano tiene una <u>seème a faire</u>, un mal rato que pasar, en la que juega su carta mís fen y es vendido. Harry munos tiene la opertunués de jugar su carta mís fen y es vendido. Harry munos tiene la opertunués de jugar su carta mís fen y es vendido. Harry munos tiene la opertunués de jugar su carta fen; la muchache le vence al fin. Le merece, pero no homes viste per qué. Sus malas acciones en la escena son de pous monga; de manera que este hombre ha debide de haver algo may male antes de que se levanta el telen. Esta presuposición amplia del drameturgo achies el elemente de protesta de la obra. El es valida, indien una magnifica consiencia sopial del pueblo de los Estados Unides que, en apariencias, es capas de poner a los tales mercederes de la guerra en su lugar, que ne puede ser otre mís que fuera de la sociedad.

Pere tal vez la presuposición es demasiada amplia si pocas personas

en la sala sentían como lo hacía Atkinson, "the secial hostility of the character."²⁴ El caso es que la reasción del público no era unanime y un solo orítico sentía el caracter antipático de Harry, lo que nos obliga catalegar la obra en dos generos: la comedia de costumbres y la obra de protesta social. Las intenciones del dramaturge ne determinan el genero; Melière cuando escribió Le Misanthrope, come comedia de costumbres, no tenía la menor idea que en el sigle XX el público vería en la obra una pretesta-

Born Yesterday se divide en tres actos y la acción tiene lugar en el salen de un espacioso y costese apartamiento de un hotel en Washington, D.O.

ACTO PRIMERO: La camarera está haciendo la limpieza cuande llega Paul Verral, quizza busca a Harry Brock para quien está destinado el apartamiento. Este entra precedido de un botones y de Eddie Brock, su primo y sirviente, y acompanado de su apoderado y de Billie Dawn, ^aque quita el aliento por le bella y estupida que es." Ed Devery, el abogado de Brock, antaño destinado a la grandega pero ahera sóle el abogado de Broek, siempre un poquito borracho entra y le pide a Brock que conceda a Verral una entrevista, le cual entonces hace Brock al mismo tiempo que le rasuran, le arreglan las unas, diátra Se jaota de los días de su niñes, de se comienze en el sucio negocie que le ha heche millonario. Devery consigue la firma de Billie en algunas papeles de les cuales ella no sabe nada. El y Brock evitan que ella beba y le piden que se ponga se más linde vestido porque el Senador Hedge y su esposa van a venir. Brock y el Senador hablan de negocios en favor de Harry como pago por su ayuda al Senador. Los pocos comentarios de Billie son casi siempre sin sentide 6 por le menos inconcientes, Devery casi siempre esté interviniendo para tapar sus necedades. Después de que les Hedge han partido, Brock y Devery hablan de lo que puede hacerse con Billie y deciden

preguntarle a Paul si estaría dispueste a enceñarle uma cuantas coesa; el consiente gestesamente y Billie está de acuarde con la idea perque "ya le había estado el eje inustiatamente." Después le dá uma palisa conora a Breck en gin rummy éste se marcha para ir a acosteres, Paul regresa con les periódicos de la mañgra para que ella les les y algunos libres para que empiece sus estudice. Billie se queja de un deler de ejes, Paul pregunta que porqué no una a les alla replica que sen fore antes dares cuanta de que él les uma, paro después de que se han beande ella se recobra con un "Clare no se ven tan mal en les hombres."

AOTO SECURDO: Des messe después. el d'arte he conhisée de aspecto. In el se ven abora un escritorio, dépubles, libros, revistas y discos. Sillie está levendo el periódice, anteojos puestos, unreamio los puntos neuros de los emles petirá emplicáciones a Paul; llega éste pece después. Discuten mus "astividades culturales." A dies eus no le gunta Harry por lo que es, lo curl ella está espenando a comprender. Cuando Marry llege Billie trota de ceresticon prementas aceres de como que asse bient Harry Las escuiva con stras de su repertorie. Cando Rad se marsha Billis pide a Breck eus le explique el negocie en el que están metidos pero él le informa que ella es una socia invisible y nata mís. El Senador Helges y Devery vienen a decirle a Brook que el arregio que ha heabe el Senador, arregio que permitirá a Brook haderse con tole el anterial de guerra inservible dejado en Europa sin ninguna interferencia del gobierno, va a taydar más y va a costar más de le que alles habían previsto. Harry sele aprovardemente. Devery pide otra ves a Billio su firma gara unce papeles pero se niega a decirie lo que son y elle rebute firmer haste que los have visto. Brock entre, disenten, pero di la obliga a firmer los. Cando ella empiena a llorer, di le dice

eno oe vaya do casa. Billio so marcha.

AGTO TERGERO: Mis tarde la misma moche. Devery, Mis berrecho que mana, y Brock están norviceamente esperando a Billie, mientras Midie está fuera buscandela. Ella entra silenciceamente después de que han calido y Paul la signe. Registran el escritorie y Paul se lleva todos les decumentes y papeles. Antés de salir le pide a Billie que se case con 61, a le cual ella responde que lo peneará. Recegny sus comes y dies a Brock que se va para siempre. El se deja llevar per la furia pere la reframa y empiema a buscar les papeles que quiere que Billie firme para que se pueda deshacer de ella. Esta les dies a 61 y a Devery que Paul los tione le cual los disgusta mucho. Devery llama al Senedor y envian a Bidie a buscar a Pauß, a quien Brock casi mata. Al fin Brock efrese a Paul cien mil délares, los cuales el reshama y Billie le informa que le fué abandonando una por una cada emo todas las sucias propiedades que están a su nombre-sel se porte bien. Ella y Paul calen juntos, y los tres aventureros vencides intenten refree de su derrota. Devery emisma a Billie y Paul

El movimiente de la obra tione el <u>tempe</u> répide que ha caracteriande el trabaje de des e tres productores "veterance" que han temide más éxito que todos en la comedia a la Breadway. Su prosperidad ha side tan continum que los más impresionables eremistas de New York han aceptade el <u>faut Pape</u> como criterés absolute para la construcción de una ebra dramática. Esta téonica, y su complemente que se llaun <u>timing</u>. Kamin la aprendié de uno de estos productores, George Abbot.

El tempo de Bern Yesterdar es répido pero no constante, y aselande en

grandes cieles abiertes rematades en una succeien de <u>climeres</u>. Este ritme se llama en el gremie de la comedia, <u>building a</u> <u>moene</u>, aunque la técnica muchas veces parece ebvia, no es sencilla y exige un large aprendianje por parte del director, Hay a le más, una media docena de directores en el teatre de los Estados Unides que le manejan con destresa. Al escribir una comedia une de los remertes principales del que se ha abusade con execce para acelerar el <u>jempe</u> es el elemente sexual, y, en la obra de Kamin, Billie Dava casi le <u>irradia</u>.

La estructura de <u>Dara Yesterdar</u> es el bisu senecide "descubrimiente" de Aristoteles, pero en vez de concentrarse en el acté final, come lé uné Xenander, aqui esté espareide per toda la obra. Es el descubrimiente gradual de la pequeñez de Harry per parte de Billie Dann, al misme tiempe que el discubrimiente de su ser nuevo, que crea a la vez el conflicto y el depenhace de la conedia. Cabe exitimar la estructura per el heuñe signiente: los descubrimientes más interesantes se hacen en la primera parte de la obra y apenas queda materia para el tereor acte que as de per si corte, ²⁵

La línes interior de la acción está suberdinada a la exterior, y el resultado es un pequeño desequilibrie que probablemente se asocia con la proviemente discutida confusión de género: o comedia de contumbres, u obra de protesta, e los des a la vez. A pesar de tode la discuancia no es grande, y hay una solides y una satisfacción peregnos que dan a la obra la

extreversión senziente característica a los norteamericanos de los tiempes anteriores a la accesión de su teatre a la escena mandial.

Le accién²⁶en légion, angún la prueba de la proposición de Prises

- A. Billie Dame amante y socia invisible de Harry Brock, es ignorante. Harry y su abegade escogen a Paul Verrel para educaria.
- B. Paul la enseña que la syuda que ella ha dade a Harry no es moral. Ella rebusa firmar unos desumentos, indispensables a Harry, y Peul los muha perque ellos acusan a Harry y a sus suiges dentre del gobierno, revelando "el peor fraude desés...mh...el <u>Tempet...</u>"
- C. Paul eguente las enchases de asesiante per parte de Harry: Verral y Rillie salen juntes, Harry pierde a la chica y el propuesto monepelie del negocio de la cheterre Duropa.

Las habitaciones de hetel en las cuales pasa toda la acción son un ambiente completamente pasivo, que ne participa en la obra, la cual de haber side escrita hace 50 allos hubiara tenido como cuadro un salon de vivienda particular, Con varios contrastes de nivel el decorade synda el "cuadro escénie," a la distribución espacial de los elementos plasticos. Sin embargo ne pasa de la especada buena técnica que facilita el trabaje del director de hacer mover los actores.

La caracterización es el elemente formal mejor legrado de la obra, a excepción del besqueje del cremista de la <u>Men Sepublic</u>. Paul Verral, que Atkinson²⁷ con rasón encuentra insuficiente. Paul es la personificación de los "hombres de buena voluntad," el ideal recombe que prefesa últimamente Gasener, quien en etros ticapos ha sido monos abstracto en sú crática social, Pero la carectorización dobil de Verral no arrastre la desabrobacion de Gassner ni decas su entúsiasmo hasia la obra, 28

La caracterización debil se para en Verral, El Senador tione la justa debles y Devery el necessario dimismo para accatus la confianza en si mismo de Brock y Billie, El Senador y Devery quedan figuras secundarias, tipos unilaterales, yeza era precisamente la intención del dramaturge, y À pesar de este les dos teman su lugar al lade de les dos caracteres redondos sin contradicción de estilo. Kamin a echade por tierra genialmente la prehibición de la composición dramática, "no mesolar les caracteres con los tipos."

Harry Brock es un "protagonista mache," une de un grupe de moda en el teatro merteamericano reciente que parece haber sobrepasado al "galan" yer el momento. Unualmente estos maches "mi tienen hijos" y sunque a veses son cómicos e casi-cómicos rares veces son caracteres de humer.

El papel de Billie es el premie gorde de la obra. Es une de estos en los suales venes un caracter transformado en etre ante muestres ejes en las tres heras de la función. Clare que <u>Barn</u> <u>Yesterdar</u> no es el **funz de fares** come lo es <u>Premelion</u>, pere tiene, en Billie, une de los mejeres y más dificiles papeles para majeres entede el teatre norteamericano. Judy Helliday, en el papel de Billie, de un día a otre, llegó a ser conocida en tedo el país.

Cando a la sencilla transformación de caracter, no por las

circumstancias pero por la educación, se afiade el elemente del discubrimiente de une mismoy el resultado es un petrate de dimensiones multiples que es un triunfo para tedo dramaturge y una ganga para una actriz que está ya en baja. Cuando ademas de ser redondo el caracter tiene humer, es un acontecimiento en el tentro poco dismysiaco de los éstados Unidos. Ple más focundo de tedo es el sucerir de la importancia que la

creación de caracteres como Billio Dann puede tener en el tentro social el cuel dunaziadas veces se ha cuidade de no ser divertido e extravagante con vistas a no achienr el valor de mensajo" de la obra.

Relacionado con el enractor testral está aquella extravagancia de sentimiente que se llema humer que se encuentran gugiere Taine, en el fonde de una cala de cerveza, "Les franceses no le concesa, "30 Sin querer analisar la caplia literatura." sebre la estética de le cémico, "pedence establecer que la estedia tiene tres elementes principales: la france éfnica, la "situación" efnica, y el personaje cémico. Pero el humer proviene selemente de las personaje cémica. De igual manora ne todes les personajes cémicas. De igual manora ne todes les personajes cémicas, Lo cémico puede estar alredador de las personas; el humer está dentre de ellos, G.K. Chestorton dice que le cémice es le conceide, le procise; y el humer es lo desconecide, le vago.

Quinte esta separación de les compes de le humorístice y le cómice vale pece si tenemes en cuenta que la lectura de <u>Triatam</u> <u>Shandy</u> de Sterne e las novelus de Dickens es suporier a las e mejores definiciones. Una sugerencia final para buscar el lugar donde se esconde el humor es éstas si le busca Vd. ecmienza son su tie Jorge, el de las narices grandes y celorados, squel de quien pienza su mujer que no es muy liste. Para que un persenaje nos pareses humòrístice tel tes és prodise que lo podemes smar.

La ignorancia infinita de Billis Dawn es humoristica, y cuando lo descubre ella y lo intente rectificar se gana unestre cariño tembién. La ignorancia de Harry es cómica, pero su fuerse teurine nos induce el temor y el entegopiene. El es cono una locamotera autómeta, escapado por chora de su estación de control exterior y maneindo selemente por un centenar de circuitos de central internos que reaccionan a las 100 gituaciones necessrias para assaurs la continuidad de su everación. Reimes con superisridad deando su limitade numero do circuitos de comtrol puede dar solemente las contestaciones quasi-correctas. some en la escena per el estile de "Doctor L. C. # y el no puede más que esquivar con pregnatas de su "experencia." Reines pergue somes seres humanes y Harry Brock no 10 es, per 10 menos en el significado snericano contemperáneo. Hoy la acomulación de varios billones de peusonientes humanos desde la épeca del "hembre Felsem," y más són los varios millense de pensenientes deste los parters esaristas, la guerra indiese en

contra de los Beers de Africa, y masacre del Haymarket en Chicago en la segunda mitad del sigle XII han sugerido a los emericanos que el primer requisite de un ser humano es posesión de una conciencia social cuendo menos elementaria. Herry no le tiene y como resultado su carácter es cómico por su anacronismo pero terrible per su fuerza subhumana.

Si Kamin hubiera dotado Harry solo una e des debilidades, no intelectuales pero físicas o enceionaldo, la obra hubiera cambiado completemento. Harry hubiera venido a ser el protagonista en vez del villano. Ganando la mener parte de amostra simpatia, ál se hubiera convertido en un carácter humerístico en vez de cómico.

Pero Xanin quiso presentar un gran chatarrero y comerciante de la guerra con coos de los grandes de las pesadas etapas de la evolución de la sociedad humana, los "colectionistas" y "casadores," y es demasiado capas como director y drumaturgo para permitir que Harry so ponga humerístico y deshacor así las intenciones eríticas del anter,

La duradera comedia de contambres en el estile popular e "realista," la fortalesa de la comedia, Eanin amepta sin lucha subjetiva para <u>Barn Yesterdar</u> come acepta tumbién la ilusión tradicional de la escena preseónico, Las únicas convenciones de caracterización son para delinear el villano, que tienen sigles y les del mache, que son convenciones más recientes y americanas. Estim no se procemps: de bacer in-

novaciones de ferma exceptuando en la caracterimación la cual sin embarge no va más allà de la buena técnica tradicional, Clare que el humer no es tan rero en el textre universal; es solamente raro en los Estados Unidos en este momento.

Ennim utiliza el mismo estile en dos obrem posteriores, The Live Eire y The Bai Bade que ocharon por tierre las esperenzas astronómicas de los exiticos que participaron en las epiniones de su primera obre expresadas en este estudio. La primera sufrió de dibujar el mache egoista y ofmice de la obre sin hacerlo bien villano, ³² error que Eanin evité con distrome en <u>Hern Kenteriez</u>. La segunda se contagió le baotente del virus simbolista que ande abore en Broaduny para quitar el mórite de una buena comodia popular. ³³ Este visus ataca los ejes primero y tras como sensecuencia que todo se ve muy mebuleco. Después influencia el cerebre y resulta en un primer face que todo es muy vago y degenera répidamento, ai no recibe trateminuto, hasta ser completamente hanal, le que la victima suble llamar "Lírice."

De todes modes Eanin continua siendo la primera esperenza de la comedia en los Estados Unidos, y hay bastamtes resones para pensar que no repetirá los errores simbelistas de <u>The Bat Bacs</u>, Además, come es un escritor fecumdo, sus fracesses recientes no son para desesperares.

El longunje de <u>Jarn Yesterdar</u> no es "natural."³⁴ Es el longunje convencional de la comedia, demasiado ecupado

en proparar los chistes para tener ciras virtudes. Pero no depende de la agudesa brillante sestenida como en las obras de George Hernard Show o Oscar Wilde. A veses hace un alto certo para un informedió de pura farsa, como la respuesta de Billie a Paul cuando le pide la mano; No me quieres, Solo quieres mi cerebro.

Les réplices més vives de la obre probablemente se en-

RROCK. I picked you up out of the gutter and I can throw you back there, too. May, you never had a decent meal before you met me. MILLIR. Yeah, but I had to have 'on with you. You cat terrible. You got no meaners. Takin' your shoes off all the time--that's another thing..., and picking your teeth, you're just not couth! BROCK. I'm as couth as you are!

Otre excelente pasuje es aquél en el sual Brock recibe las noticias de que la legislación que el Senador Bedges le está consignisado turdará y contará más:

DEVENT. I'm sure Herval's doing his best. DEVENT. Ben'tibe unreasonable. Herry. There are minety six votes up there. Herval's just one gay. BEOOK. He's the unreasonable. Herry. There are minety six votes up there. Herval's just one gay. BEOOK. He's the unreasons gay. What the ball? We've handled it before. HEDGES. Things area't the same. BEOOK. We'll make ten the same. That's your job, sin't it? DEVENT. Pretty tough essignment. BEOOK. We'll make ten the same. That's your job, sin't it? DEVENT. Pretty tough essignment. BEOOK. What do I ears? (To Hedges) and you, you better get moving or I'll butcher you--you'll wind up a Ged dawn THCA searchary again before you know. DEVENT. Herry... BEOOK. I'm genne get it fixed so I can do business where I want and how I want and as big as I want. If you ain't with me, you're against me. HEDGES, I'm with you. BROGK. (starting up the stairs) All right, then, you'll have to pull your weight in the God damn boat or I'll got someone who can. You understand me? (He slame out, There is an aukward pense.) HEDGES. He has guite a temper, hasn't he?

De estes personajes, y, en segundo lugar, de este diálego provienen los reacciones encolonales más fuertes de la ebra. En teresr lugar es la ésción que es menos afectiva.

El significado literal do la obra se encuentra principalmente en tres personajes megatives: (1) Un Senador que conseguirá la legislación a 80,000 delares la ley. (2) Un vendedor de "influencia," que se hace paser per un abegado pero en realidad un agente libre en el morcado pelítico, quien compre al Senador per (3) Hazzy Ereck quien a su vez y anteriormente ha comprede antes en el Senado de Les Estudos Unides las leyes ventajesas y que buses una manera "logal" para apoderarse de material de guerra abandonado en Estrepa.

La texis es ne más sugerida. El comercio de guerra de Harry ya ha pasado antes de que comenzó la obraj ahora venes sus actividades de la postguerra. La protesta es directa en contra del vilhas Harry pare zóle indirecta en contra del nogocie de la guerra y la compra de los legisladores. Harry es un hombre male y tode el mundo en la sala le sabe, y la persona efuscada por lealtad o cariñe pur Harry se puede eduear répidemente, some Rillie le fué, para ver de veras lo que es un Harry Brock. Una vez más comprobance la justeme

Atkinson,

de la frant de/Hammy es un hombre male por "la hostilidad social del personaje."

La única expresión más e memos directa de la tenis de Ennin se enconntra en le que dice Rillie a Breck después que ella ha desidide de abandemarke y ha rebusado su aferta de quemiente:

BILLIE (very simply). Well, all this stuff I've been reading--all that Paul's been telling no--it just mixed me up. But when you hit me before, it was like every-thing knocked itsalf together in my bead---and made sense. All of a sudden I realized what it means. How some people are always giving it and some taking, And it's not fair, So I'm not going to let you any more. Or anybody slag.

Es interesante que el Senador Hodges ha tenide vida real en el Diputado Andrew Hay del Comité de Asuntes Hilitares de la Camara. May habia "arreglado" contratos de guarra para Honry y Murray Gareson, comerciantes de armas-per elerte precio, Fue convisté de hacer mendides, igual que los hermanos Garsson el 3 de Julio de 1947 después que el había salido del Congreso. El 25 de Julio los tres fueros condenados a cohe mesos minimo hasta des ellos maximo de prisión.

Los cargos en contra del diputado eran conocidos en circulos eficiales desde el último año de la guerra, y seguramente Esnin conocía el episodio en el momento de escribir <u>Rem Xestardar</u>. Es ignalmente segure que la notoriedad que alcanzó el escándale como resultade de la obra dramático ayudó a traor el caso ante un tribunal público después de un perióde large en el cual el encubrimiente cricial había evitade la revelación completa al pueblo.

Antes de escribir <u>Harn Yeatering</u> Kamin munes había mestrade una conciencia política marcadamente aguda, y su trabaje dende la primera obra ne le marca come un pensader social de grandes proporciones. Su escebro parece reaccionar ante los acontecimientes del momente con la misma liberal suspensión de juicie que es característica de la gran parte de los nortesmericanos educados, y sus actitudes intelectuales ne revelan tendencias comistentes ni radicales. Es uno de tentes del grupe tible de dramaturges mortesmericanos que an side sobre-estimados al recibir la etiqueta começalita, "esiderica."

Sin dada maestra una simpatia grande para el humilde en <u>The Ent Rope</u> y una fuerte autipatía para les melos y los parésitas in <u>The Live Nick</u>, pare tales sentimientes liberales en suma estém lejos de ser una verdadera consiencia social. Inj vez, come pienze Gasemer, no debemos yedir más profundidad a Ennin con tal de que nos repita de vez en sumfe las risas y la técnica efmica de <u>Barn Yasterier</u>. El es^cesencia "hombre de teatro" (le pesitive y le negative del término) y maride de la veterana astris Bath Gorden la cual también escribe a veces: obras de petrespectión sentimental otne <u>Years Act</u> y <u>The Londing Lofy</u>, los des dirigidas en la escena por su espeno. Su <u>Over Tenniv-Gue</u>, 1944, tuve un éxite considerable

en Ina temperadan de nemer delléad de los elles de la genre, Athan mientres del ognige diminities tionen une experiencie Teste en el testre y en los pelititans

After a slow shart as vertexa being meaningsr, Harr's dist, wasterilling, extended to district from the lots over stair of the inscient and of transits if a net entire any displayed actually at a first he take to the attention of George about as a willing young men with a finit for singing. My, Easts could not have het a better metter in the field of directing then Mr. About with when he was associated in the profitable vertures of fixed He an a Hereby Jat. Masks field Joy

Can foldered who has a know are for talent and backs his judgments with completeness setion, brought the young has to belly word in 1937 show Eastin was only toontyflys and gave him or experimently to familiarian himself with metter picture tooksigns. I, I, C, allowed him to direct A has to homselve, and Eastin browns "the boy youder" of the himselve, and Eastin browns "the boy youder" of the himselve, and Eastin browns "the boy youder" of the himselve, and Eastin browns "the boy youder" of the himselve, and Eastin browns "the boy youder" of the himselve, and Eastin browns "the boy youder" of the himselve, and Eastin browns the directed the Ginger Home Hast floor setting the first of and find the himselve himselve he callered as a prove to be directed a ceptule, and in consequence Eastin was able to direct up himselve and in consequence Eastin was able to direct up anyons and valueble domesticy films, he dimented this phase of his coupler with the film from films. Jo

ЧĘ.

Gunden has produced the Breadway slave and written the mylice plotness "A Deckie Life" and "Line"s His, "Jo

Les Texterier la side une de las mas grandes "teguillairna" en el textor norferenzione extern. Commun en temperade el 4 de Febrere de 1946 y la texniné el 3 de Riedenbre de 1946, después de 2,642 Sanciente. Se representable medie en tradeselés en Reseya, y en Issuel. In la apris de semperades rese de 12 mente egifter la liert a la moura de intrataciente vine "propaganda anti-yanqui." El mismo calificativo se pues a <u>Desti</u> <u>ef a Inleman</u> de Arthur Hiller cuando se prohibió el estrene en la sona estadounidense de Alemania. <u>Darm Yesterday</u> duré una temperada comparativamente larga para México en el Teatro Latina.

La spisitión película macada de la obra dramática ha sumentado su público en varios millenes de personas, pore los manerismes personales de Judy Holliday son exagerados y explotados "hanta ĝuede" para las comaras de <u>slangent</u>, de manera que Harry Brock viene a ser una mera figura scoundaria y el público de eine no tieme la opertunidad de sentir "la hostilidad social" de Harry. Judy Holliday, graciasséle a este papel, probablemente quedará en Hellywood para jugar "rubias bebas" bestante tiempe para adquirir varias alberens.

Comprebado su efecto per la tequille, <u>Bern Tenterday</u> migue velido en contenido hay en día cuando los Estados Unidos están gestendo billones de delares en unh guerra y los Harry Brock y Senador Hedges etre vez empioyen a sulir de su escondito.

Su crítica social ha tenido són más influencia sebre el público riente a causa de la maestría teatral de su forma que, además, está bien equilibrada con le que dice la obre. Si hubiera intentado decir más, hubiera venide a ser quinas el deminie de les dríticos de biblicioca, pere a causa de su limitación hábil es una magnifica obra de teatre. Atkinson la compara con la Remarcania Gentilherma³⁷ de Meliere, y estédentre de le mejor de la tradición de la comedia de costumbres. Este génere en el teatre norteamericane ne pesse una obra con un significado social más amplie que el de Rem Yesterier.

1. Hay un espíritu sensjante en el arte mexicano barroco precalambino. Guando el contenido del arte remántico ya se ha convencionalizado, las formas llegam a su máxima complejidad. Entrem lo feo, le herrible, y los otros elementos contradictorios que parecen a primera vista anti-remánticos; también entra en juego la vieja meta del romanticizmo; la unión de todas las artes. Pero en este momento formalmente más voluptuoso hay poco equilibrio entre forma y fonde; marca el corrempimiento o decadencia de un cialo remántico. Esto no quiere decir que lo remántico sea decadencia de lo clásico--como pensaba Toscano---o de lo popular. Lo remántico-recargado es sólo la fase concluyente de lo remántico-sencillo; numca existe fuera de una completa evolución remántica. El "suti-remanticizmo" de Bary the Daad. obre metamente remántico, marca su diferencia de la anterior---e inferior---obre más e menes pacifiste <u>Mat Prior Glarr</u>7, igualmente remántica pere formalmente muche más sencilla.

2. Brooks Atkinson, <u>Broadwar</u> Saxanbook. (New York: Theatre Arts Inc. el947). p. 225.

3. Mordeoni Gorelik, New Theatres for Cld. (New York; Samuel French, 1948). p. 40].

4. Idem.

5. Sabel, <u>m. ait</u> p. 119.

6. <u>Bury the Dead</u> participa en las situaciones de Pelti número 101, la suplicación a los pederesos en el interés de los queridos del suplicante (invertido), y múmero 882, la rebalida de muchos.

7. Gassner, Meaters of the Downe. (New York: Dover Publications, e1940). p. 658.

8, Frank Hurburt O'Hera, <u>Today in American Drema</u>. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1939). p. 261.

9. Corelik, on alt p. 242. Corelik emplea sus térmi-

nos con más procisión histórica ens Gassner a O'Herry

10. Eric Bentiny, "Back to Recoding" on Theater Artic Velaxariii, no. 10. Noviembro, 1949. p.13.

12. Sobel, on all "The story recalling that of the play, Maradia at Target, concerns dead soldiers who refuge to to burist, "p.115. "An English adoptation of this play by Julian Jaigh was given by the Themaire Guild in 1911. The door on inspired Lymin Shar to write his ene-ast Juny 100 Juny 1916. " p.545.

13. Tide la discusión en detalle en el espítule de este

14. Jeseph Wood Mystel, The section Donne Since 1984; an Informal History. (New York) Mandem Mouse. 61939), 3. 176.

15. Un excelente estadie de este fant de la historia de Les Estades Unides es el de Louis Ademio, Departirs the Study of Gaus Vislance in America, (Now York; The Vising Press, 1935).

16. "Incle Show decided to compete for a prise effected by a New Theatre League is starph of social drame, ... 'Day the Feed' nover reached the contest for which it was and then, but it was given a production by the League to which it was genmitted and attracted the attention of provenal drame origins who say it. Six weeks later it was given a professional production and ereated another round of another. Dece Mantic, <u>Contemporary American Elementation</u> (New York: Dece Man and Company, 1941), p.246.

17. mary, m. siz. p.133.

18. Apredentie The revision excelor Application of 27 to Septimbre de 1950.

15, Gamy, m. siz, y. 272.

20. Barna Marting <u>Gertangeran</u> Martin Martinia

21. "In the Last fourteen years just the load has been performed hundreds of times throughout the country by high school and college dramatic sluips and little theature groups." Scholastic, el 27 de Soytienboo de 1950,

22, Grenne Solden, You Gan't De That. (Now York: Moners Age Docks, el936).

23. Generer Dest Marris, .

24. Atteinson, m. att. p. 296.

25. Beenri Landberg, "Darm Yesterday" an the long (Misies, 2.7.) el 23 de Ortubre de 1990. "Delles mart plays, shish and weitten tereri a dimen, 'Darm Yesterday' sound to have been anough to provide matter for a good sound and a bereit parable finel see, The prioring det of his material sound to have been feit by Easth, for he makes his first art as here at the last two embilies the provide solar his site art as here here a feet the sound of the priority of his seterial sound to have been feit by Easth, for he makes his first art as here at the last two embilies the provide solar his site art weight.

26. La situación minero 2757 de Feiti, el dependerizionte en el mante de une es un pieste, pie serves a la de 2000 Sectorez.

27. Attant, m. At. yp. 297, 299.

28. Generer, Best Playment, p. Minis

29. Angener ha chegide muche en fuver del tegne ligne

1. Il moder espectante solar las textine de la efecte y une burne bibliografia se encontront de la cheme de funtes hurn Painimon, la Praise of Constant a Stady in its theory and Practice, (New York: Machillin, 1919). Monos intellectual y universel pare tal ves une major discusión del hungr estadement dimen de la de Sannel & Cont, Mar Ma Janach. (New York: Harper and Drythers, 1870), 37009.

32. Shaaine Arie, vel. muriv, no. 10. Cotubre, 1990.

33. This, wil, willy, no. 3. Marso, 1950. p. 9.

34. Lowson, on, cit. Il expitale source al dificio enselle cuetro requisives per natural y claro, bener color y compresion, pp. 207-298.

35. Gassner, Best Plays. .. p.182.

36. Theotre Arte, vel. mady, no. 2. Pebrere, 1950, p. 58.

37. Atkinson, on, oit, y. 299.

المنتع ومتعرف ومسترجيت

Capitule Tres

LA EXPLOTACION DEL OBRERO

Jaiting for Lafty

When the union's inspiration through the werker's blood shall run There can be no powor greater anywhere beneath the sun,...

Durante cosi un medio-sigle estas palabras se han contado como profecia y la sangre del obrezo ha corrido en una lucks pers obtaner al derecho de la bueles como medio pers nospeiar colectivamente con los patrones en materia de paso y condiciones de trabaie. El patrón a su ves ha insistido en su derecho de traer de afuera los rempekuelsas y pisteleros pera liguidar lo que era babía side hasta enteness su seno de obra. En un principio la lucha era local, los guardias de la comparia y la policia local pesaron y dispararon contra los piquetes de huelgistes y terrorisaron los barries de los hogares obreres. Después, el manejo de la política estatel por parte de los hombros de negocios pormitió la utilización de la militia estatel en el trabaje que habían hecho los Pinkerton y les etres pisteleres de signiles. Les formes del gobierne foderal se utilizaren per primera vez per el Prezident (leveland para aplastar la huelga de la compania Pullman, y desde entonces han apertado unas veces la pas a un impanas entre hualquistas y la policia local o la milidia, y etras veces han traide el eplastamiento de una huelga irrempible. Por medio de la ley "Vagner" de 1915 el gobierne federal-pera dignizair la violencia de la huelgas en todas partes-garantisé el dereche a negociar contratos colectivos y aceptó la responsibilidad de la

conciliación de los conflictos entre trabajadores y patrenes. Hey en día 20 millemes de obreres mindicalizados ensuentran una vez más que se ha suprimido su dereche a la huelga yerque un sole semador, Robert Taft, tuve el poder cuando terminó la segunda guerra mundial para convertir a los tribunales federales en la agencia de decretos de <u>infunctions</u> que ya fueron en etres timpos los tribunales locales.

El burgués norteenericano, y con este nombre se inclure al aficienado de Broadway, munca jamás comprendió exastanente le que pesaba entre les hombres que maneian las méquines y los que eran los duelles de ellas. Los patrones y su prensa le habian convencido de que los trabajaderes habian queride la bancarrota de la industria quande luchaban per un salarie adecuado pera vivir y su contra de "la tienda de la compania" y las cames que alguila la compania. El minne obrero no comprendió les abusos hasta que le llegaron encima, especialmente después que se abatió al espiritu militante de la Federación Americana del Trabajo en 1911 quando los hermanos Masimura fueron convictos de haber coloendo y hecho exploter was contidud considerable de dinamita en el edificio del Tines de Los Anabiva, periódico del carasel Otis, quien se encoutraba en acuel monouto en Mérico percende una "concesión de tierras" parecida a la que pescé su compañere, William Bandelph Heerst, en el estade de Chibughug. Les investigueienes periòdicas de las nousselones contra 16 JP-Associated Press-a partir del 62 Congrese han señalado

la agencia por medie de la cual les industriales pedian esconder del públice le que pasaba en sus fabricas durante las huelgas. Upten Sinelair y John Reed-el primer corresponsal mortesportsane con simpatia para la revolución morienna-eran entre-otres les pequeñes pertereces de la verdad en contra de la supresión y falsificación de las neticias de conflictes industriales. La "mentira grande" prosperó, y sigue prosperande, y parese que ne hey medie de comunicaciones en masa en el cual el ebrare y en sindicato puedan obtener una presentación justa de cua actitudos y heches. La "mentira grande" se supene en una canaion popular sindical; la irémica y sultante "Put It on the Ground";

Ch. if you want a raise in pay, All you have to do, So and ask the beas for it, And he will give it to you, my bay, Yes, he will give it to you, my bay, He will give it to you. A raise in pay without dalay, Oh, he will give it to you,

Ch, put it on the ground, Spread it all around, Ing it with a hee, It will make your flowers grow.

For mon who own the industries, I'm shedding bitter tears: They haven't made a single dime In over thirty years; In over thirty years; In over thirty years; Bet on a thirty years; In over thirty years; Bet on a thirty years;

Ch, put it on the ground, Spread it all sround, Dig it with a hos, It will make your flowers grow. The new who own the industries, They own no Nonde and stouts, They own no yachts and linguines, for gens the size of rocks. They own no hig estates with pools, for silken R. Y. D. 's, Because they pay the working man Such famoy selectes.

Ch, put it on the ground, Spread it all around, Dig it with a bee, It will make your flowers grow,

La primera operfunidad que tuve al emediador teatral nortesporisons de sir les sensationes de les servres sentre. les petropes fué en el estrepé el 18 de noviembre de 1911 de Steel per John Wexley. el anter del exitese melodrena anterior. The Lest Mile. due protestaba centra la pena de muerte. Steel. en una versión more del autor, fué pionero otra ves en 1937 sundo tuvo una temporada das daré desde el 17 de enero hasta el 5 de junio como la primera obra representada por un sindicato (C.I.C.) con actores-chreres. En 1915, en la cumbre del paro obrero, había una/de obras que travaban de las huelgas. La principal era la que estudiaremes en detalle en este conitule: Whiting for Lefty de Chifford Odets. Les etres eren Let Preedom Bing de Albert Bein, estudie de los serranos comvertides per les circumstancies en chrerce textiles. y Mack Pit per Albert Malts, que John Heward Lewson llamé "La tentative mis importante ... ou el campo del drama proletario, al Derente 1936 y1937 Clifferd Odets escribié tembién <u>Silent Part-</u> per, y en el último año la Theatre Union representó Marching

Same de Lawson,

Adamán de las obras "de huciga" había dos protestas emtra el eseminate judicial de los organizadores mindiceles Sacce y Vanaetti: <u>Beda ef the Lightning</u>, 1926, y <u>Minternet</u>, 1935, las des per Maxwell Anderson, la primera en colaboración con Harold Hickerson, La represión universitaria se traté super-Sicialmente en las dificultados cómicas que tiene un prefesor que los las cartas de Vangetti en se clase de literatura: <u>The</u> <u>Hale animel</u>, 1939, de James Ehurber y Elliot Hugent. No estudiaremes mingune de las últimas tres obras perque no cuentan en comparación con <u>Haiting for Lafir</u>, y además perque sería una pórdida de demasiadas páginas la refutación inátil de los que insistes que <u>Eintersat</u> es superior a <u>Sada af the Licht-</u> ming. (Es superior solamente en el sentido de tener más altura, de estar más corseno a las mbes,)

Si la pieza obrero de Wexley inició un mueve género de la composición dramática norteamericane, Waiting for Lafty de Odets empesó una era de teatro obrero proviste de todos los elementos, escenógrafos, actores, dramaturgos, directores, técnicos y público. Harold Clurman, director del Group Theatro, describe el estreno de la obra de Odeta con las signientes polabruo:

Sunday night, January 5, 1935, at the old Civic Repertery Theatre on Yourteenth Street, an event took place to be noted in the annals of the American theatre. The evening had spened with a mildly smusing one-act play by Paul Green. The audience, though attracted by the guest appearance of a good part of the Group company, had no idea of what was to follow.

The first space of Lafty had not played two minutes when a shock of delighted recognition struck the andience like a tidal wave. Deep laughter, het assent, a kind of jeyous ferver seemed to sweep the andience toward the stage. The actors no longer performed; they were being carried along as if by an emittancy of communication such as I had never witnessed in the theatre before. Audience and actors had become one. Line after line brought applause, whistles, braves, and heartfelt shouts of kinship."

Hacia el fin de la primavera de 1935; la obra arrastró a la nación entera. Quatro teatros regionales se fundaron para representar lafty. Clurman dice que había más de 90 temperadas simultáneas:

all in all, Lefty was being done in some sixty towns which had never before witnessed a theatrical performance. Thirty-two cities were seeing the twin bill of Lefty and fill the Bay I Die at the same time.

De veras era una ebra que expresó las ampiraciones del pueble y su prestigio creció con las prohibidianes y los arrestes por "profacación" y "accubica ilegal" en Philadelphia, Boston, New Haven, Newark, Derchester, Chelsea y Rexbury, y con la paliza que lo dieron a un director teatral en Califormia los fascistas del "Bund" después de la representación de Till the Day I Die.⁴

Lofir pierde muche de mu afecte testral suando se la les en la salma de la biblioteca. Es casi cierto que el "intelestual" que la concee per primera vez por la lectura la jungaria "interessante, paro no es gran cosa." Emperéed él le ve en al testro, se somete a una magia escénica que le hace pensar durante un rato corte y gescas, que la lucha de les ruleteros

en Lofty es su lucha propia. No recobra su calma de contumbre hasta que sale del teatre y llama a un libre. Entenses, su leoura pasada, llega a casa sin haber diche una sela palabra al ruletere de la vida real que mensja delánte de él.

El análizio formal de Lafig revela que tiene des géneros: el drama de texis y la obra de protesta. La pasión que la domina tembién domina a la mesola de géneros, propios a dos estilos-rais distintes en eposición, y enuca la ascendencia sobre al género de obra de tesis del género de protesta, y con él, el estilo remántico. Es la mejor obra de protesta inalmida en el presente estudia. Entre sus escenas internas de flaghhada se incluyen varias sub-obras (y sub-géneros) deutro de la obra principal. Per ejemple: las des estenas con mujeres son del género de obra de problema séxual, y la escena entre Miller y Payette es un pequeño meledrama de acción. En sus obras posteriores Odets ha vuelte uear tedos estes géneros, más los de drama problema burgués y aún se acerca a veces al tone del género de obra de retrespección sentimental.

Lefty es obra en un acte, divide en cebe episodios. Hay un solo telén, después del épisedie final.

Primer episodio do <u>envelope</u>: En el escenario cuendo la cortina se levanta están los miembros de un comité de trabajadores y el jefe del sindicato Harry Fatt, quien se está dirigiendo al suditorio tratando de convencerlos de que no deben ir a la huelga. Voces de la sala contestan y proguntan varias

veces "Donde está Lefty?" Elles quieren eir a les miembros del comité, el primero de los cuales en hablar es Joo. El les dice primero que no sabe donde cotá Lefty pero que sabe que él no los ha abandonado. Después dice cómo su esposa le convenció de que deberían votar par la busiga y la escena se translada a...

Episodio de Jee y Edna: Joe regresa del trabajo a casa encontrando que se han llevade todas sus muchles porque los pagos ne habían sido heohon. El y Edna disouten ĝorque están cansados, hambrientes y tienen dos niños que alimentar y veztir. Ella le sugiere que les cháferes vayan a la huelga y le amenasa con dejarle si él no have algo, aunque sea paligroso, ogno él le dice que será. Decide ir a ver a Lefty dejande a Edna triunfante.

Spinedie del Amistente de Laberatorie: Fayette, un industria:, le esté ofreciendo a Miller, un Amistente de Laberatorie, un aumente de veinte délares, enganchéndele a un nueve laberatorie para trabajar con un químice muy importante, al Dester Byenner, con gases venencesa. Miller queda sorprendide y empiesa a pensar en su hermane y sus des primes muertes en la última guerra pare Payette le dice que los 12 millenes de hembres muertes y los 20 millenes herides é deseparecides no son de su procompación "porque si en kos grandes negocios se jusieren sentimentales appres de la vida humana, ne habría grandes begeciós de minguma clase." Pare cumos le

pide a Miller que escribe un réferie semanal de les actividades del Doctor Bronner, Miller se uiégn, perdiende aci su sumente y su trabajo. Termina la entrevista gelpeande a Fayette en la beca.

Spinodie del Jôven Enletere y 34 Sevin: 21 hermano de Flexence, Ixv, está tratande de convenceria de que se debería de ver más a Sid, el chéfer con el que ella ha estado compremetida tres allos. El llega, elles hablan de su problema, de la posibilidad de seguir adelante juntos, pero deciden que las cartas están contra elles.

Spinodio del Espin del Putron: Fatt presente a Ton Clayton, quien tenín experencia en buelgas en Philly. (Layten les dice que Fatt tiene risén, que el tiempe do-es propiete para una husign. Una vos sale del anditerio disiéndole que se siente, acuséndele de ser un espin de la Compania y de ser en "prepie hermano pinjeso" Clancy, y no Clayton, quien entences se large corriende per el pasille.

Spisodie del Astor Jévens⁵ Esté esperando a ver a un espresario teatral. El secretario simpatica con él y le acenseja que diga al empresario haber trabajade en Ruova Yerk y no en provincian. El empresario sale de un bañe caliente y decide que el actor no puede servir yerque no tiene el "tipe" para un papel de seldade. Onando va a salir el actor, el secretario ofrece prestarle un delar. "Con un delar se compran dies panes grandes, Selier. O uneve panes y un ejemplar del Manifiesto Ognunista."

Episodio del Interno: Venos al Dr. Benjamin (une de los miembres del comité) reemplamado por el incompetente sobrino de un semador en una operación dificil. Adomás el Dr. Barnes dict/que la junta ha encontrade necesario corrar etre pevellón de caridad y reducir el munere de dectores. Aunque Benjamin temis prioridad, come es judie lo escogiaron para irse. Le dice el Dr. Barnes que había pensado en ir a Busia para trabajar en medicina socializada, pero decidió que su trabaje estaba en América, y que tendría que consequir alguna clase de trabaje para seguir viviendo---*tal ver monejar un enro*...

Episodio final de <u>anvalana</u>: De regrese al mitin, igate está hablando de los dirigentes del sindiento, de su inaignia del sindiento, que no puede unar porque se había quemade ardiende en vergüense. Patt y el pistelere le arregian para que se celle, pore los hembres del comité le protegan mientras urge a los trabajadores para que luchen per sus dereches, para que vayan a la huelga y no esperen a Lefty. Justemente entences, un hembre entra corriendo a decir que lo acaban de encomtrar "bajo-las barras del combe "con una bala en la cabesa." Agate grita a la miltitud, pide su repuesta, a le cual los reunidos gritan fuertemente "/HUELGAS"

El movimiente es a base de ritmes bruscos, sún más que <u>Insta line Desi</u>, que dan un efecto general de violencia. En términes lineales podríanos desir que la obra se compone de diagonales. El tempo física y concrete de <u>Lafty</u> es "répide^{né}

y hay adamás una velocidad artificial sún más rápide que viene de la sinceridad terrible de los personajes en su "inereasingly explicit statement of revolutionary probest."⁷ Todas las escenas son repidisinas excepte las del dector Benjamin y del joven reletere y su novia. En estas, el tenpe es más leuto pero la misma "argencia" las domina. Las emociones sexuales son de anteje remunciado que séle el future definizá, pere en el problema de Joe y Edma hay el <u>suá-</u> pense de una smensa terrible que inicia de gelpe el clima

La estructura es de los mismos <u>envelence</u>, explicados en la discusión de <u>Barr ins</u> <u>Band</u>, que abren y cierran la obra y que contienen einco <u>flashbacks</u> dividies per medio de <u>blash-</u> <u>suis</u>. Una sexte escena interna, no une de los <u>flashbacks</u> sino un tercor elemento de los <u>envelones</u>, refuerse mis la estructura de <u>lefiy</u> que en la obra antibélica. Este escena, el episodio de la espis de los industriales, cas entre el tereere y el cuarto <u>flashback</u> y vuelve la acción a la asumbles sindical para establecar de muovo la identificación del público con les personajes.

Hay une gran compression de la acción⁵ en la resolución, La parte final que Price llama los "resultados" de la acción , pero a pesat de eso la acción se puede contener en la "proposición de Price;

A. Unes relateres esperan la palabra de su lider Lefty para empesar la buelga, a pesar de que los oficiales de

mi minilicato son generica les espitelistes y a la

3. Sacceives flachbacks revelas las privaciones en las vides de los suleveres a comun de una erigis coominica.

G. Los vuloteros dependren un caria infiltrado que intenta el sebetaje de la intelga. Desembres el aseriante de Lefty, essetido per los chacalos de la compañía y desidem declarar la intelga en seguida.

Se aguí la combinación de una línea de acción exterior com una interior: la exterior tan extervertida como un mélodruma del fin de miglo, la interior expresiva de todas las dedas y desconfinmans del mistama comúnico y de todos los comflictos en el pecho del obrero durante una de las fallas periédicas de los grandes negocios. Las des líneas parseon una; gracias a la magnifica fusión impartida por la pesión del durantempo.

2al fusión de una linea interna ten intenne, con una adción externa, puede duplicarse selemento, en la opinión del que escribe, en unes rites primitives y en una gran obra religiona. Varios escriteres han notade el sentido cuai religione en la obra de Odeto, Gagey entre ellos:

The yourself, lead your can life-the some to sep-sive in to love but don't allow it to interfore with your mission; protect against poverty and social svils, and unite with others in dreating a better would. Through love, self-expression, and robellion Odets' characters are drivon to personal conversion--not unlike religious conversion in its intensity--which loads to full realization or to action. This is characteristic of the referming movement of the thirties and rather than strict idealogy accounts for much of the leftim in Odets' plays.

A Lawson no le gasta mache el sentido religiose en laftra

pero él le reconces como la fuente de la fuerra de la obras

Odets' conception of social change is still schemist remarkies it is neer as a vast force, the recognition of which constitutes a personal regeneration. Thus he peroeives the memory of explosive anger, of realization and conversions. Indeed Maiting for Lefty is a study in conversions. This is the secret of its power. But Odets will undoubtedly go beyond this to mastery of more profound and more sustained conflict.

No hay esconagrafia; la escena semeja la tribuna para la agenhica de un sindicate. El texte dice "...una escena desunda. En ella estan sentados seis e seite hombres en un hemicicle...el comité de les obreres." La acción de les <u>finshingia</u> ocurre en un <u>most</u> entre elles y el público mientras que el comité queda sentado en la sombre. Los resursos son de una aconomía y sencillos sincera. La atmónfera, deminada per la fuerza y franquesa del comité es de un vigor apenas matiente y por ese aún mis visicuta. El efecto de la obra se pierde mucho en un textre barrece e injone. Nejer un textre sencillo y aún pobre, y en verdad el mejor ingar para la representación de la obra es una asembles de obreres.

Los yersenajes, exceptuando Grady y au estenágrafo, Fayette, Dr. Bernes, Fatt y sus chacales, son ruleteres y sus mujeres. Tres de ellos eran burgueses anteriormente, químico, actor y médico, y selsmente hasta este grado es vélida la generalización de Lauseu:

But here we have a militant strike committee made up largely of declassed numbers of the middle class. One commot reasonably call these people "starnhirds of the working class, all

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Pero al mismo técnos no hay rasón para que tales personas no se encontreren en un militante de un comité de huelge. Hen side forrados a trabajar con un salario de hanbre, despuás de haberne accavambrade a vivir más e menos bien. Dos de les tres hombres tienen además queles que les hace regi-Mir bien el movimiente militante de la incuierdas han perdide sus trabajos provios como resultado de la discriminación racial y del femento de la guerra. Los motives del actor son monos elares, pero no hay que elvidar que el episodie en que figura él fué suprimide en la primera edición popular de las obras de Odets, por el cual tal ves el drematurso reconoció la escena más débil de Lafty. Les algenna incuierdistan ene el estenégrafe lanza al neter mientras que se ve y al stro al final de la obre, atamabirda of the marking class, mestras la falta de preparación anterior. No sen Pri ammuladamente lógices, si basados en las realidades de carne y huese, 42 Pero esta falla resulta de unos trosce malogrados de diáloge más que de la caraterización dentro de la trana Maion. Con regén podemos esperar encontrar al ex-burgeds on un comité ét inclus y executrerie como militente. Es neves reseable encontrarie elociente en la literature insulardista e encentrarle distriburendo plieges marristhe en la santina.

Les suleteres son personajes "pesitives" y reciben vida, caler y verdad de la gimpatia del dramatungo. Su mamera de

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ponser og progettien.13

Les exceptiones, les personajes "négatives," son en su mayaria "tipes" en vez de "caracteres," Fatt, Fayette, y les chacales entre ellos.¹⁴Grady y su estemégrafe son "siluctas," segin la clasificación de Unigli.

El estile de <u>lafiy</u>, naturalista, es un subestile del remántico, una de las tres grandes corrientes estilisticas, siende los des etres el alásico y el popular e "realista," En <u>lafiy hay tembién elementes convencionales del estile popular</u>. Clumen15 y Gagay¹⁶ dicon que la ebra⁴⁷demochida per Odets a base del modele del <u>minsioni sham</u>, una forma de las más nortesmericanas y convencionales. Por la economia de les recursos pedia haber side una ebra de convención teatral, pere es una protesta (siempre remántica,) y la unión del público con los actores erea una ilusión complete, que hase deminar el "remántico" subestilo maturalista, ¹⁷

El minno <u>antilo</u> se encontra en las obras posteriores de Odeta, pero éstas enen en la trampa persistente del simboliamo nortegnerienne e se entregan a la reminisencia remática. Se mublem per la falta de la urgencia y de la pasión que unifican a Lafty y Amaka and Sing.⁸

Podemos notar históricamente la progresión del tentre llamado laborista desde el estilo romántico hasta el popular, y se puede esperar llegar a una afirmación definitiva en el estilo popular. Espesó en tedas partes como druma de protes-

ta perque vino de afuera de las clases sociales dominantes (las ebras y los cuentes de Gorki son un buen ejemplo), y en el joven teatre soviético shorn no venos la pretesta remánties sino un teatre popular de un acabade rudo, que intenta erear tipos sociales (especialmente les pepulares) y acercarse al proverbio en lo agude de su tesis e instrucción de sentide común. Un teatre clásico seviético no es esperarse mientras que sus artistas mantegan un pensemiente "misionero" y sus hombres de estado teman que su país carra poligre per parte de sus vecimos capitalistas e imperialistas.

El textro del ebrero nortesmoriesne ha sido resántico depente toda su face de protesta, pero parece que hay la temdencia, destro de la parte que haccoptade la perspectiva marxista, de incomporar unos pecos elementos formales del estile popular en la creasión de tipos obreros y de presentar una tesis de demostración al lado de la protesta, tanto la resolución como el problema. Domina todavía en el textre ebrero del momento el estile remántico con pequeños "prestam mos" del estile popular.

Un estilo popular más puro se encuentre entre les dremeturgos regionales nortesmericanes, principalmente en las semas agrícolas, pero no hay ramón para esperar tal estile en el testro proletario hasta que domine en los Estados Unidos la clase obreza.

El diápolo os uno de los triunfos formales más grandes

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de <u>Làfir</u>. Breeks Atkinson le describe come de "une fuerza pece menal.²⁹ Clurman le llama un nueve tipe de diálogo y resonce un antecedente menos acabado en <u>Success Sierr</u> de John Hemard Lawson;

It was Lawson's play that brought Odets an awareness of a new kind of theatre dialogne. It was a compound of lefty moral feeling, anger, and the feverish arget of the big city. It bespece a warm heart, an eutraged spirit, and a rough tengue.⁴⁰

El diágojo de <u>Lafiv</u> satisface a los suatro requisitos teóricos de Lauson: la compresión, el color, la claridad y el efecto natural. Gugay habla de su "gran den para elidiólogo escénico---vivo, dramático, humaristico, El busa humar de údeta es ruramente maquinado o facticio yere deriva naturalmente del caráctor. ⁶²¹

Les relatores en <u>Lefin</u> no hablen el languaje de la celle, ni hablen como postes, pero temposo hablen el languaje del <u>hommeroin decloané</u> del cuel hable Lemosa. Nablen como obreres de educación, de conciencia, y de sentimientos refinadom, Se encuentran podes veces en medie de la miseria tel elecuencia apasionada de acción y de palabras. A lo mejor hablan un longuaje nuevo y literarie del chrero idealizado--la invención de Lamson, refinada e idealizada por Odeta.

Estes dos elementes de acción y diálogo llevan las primespules emociones de la obraj los dos se coloran por la comvicción del dramaturgo pero se presencia queda en la sembra. La caracterización es mence fuerte, aunque no male.

Les autocodentes de les formes de <u>Lefty</u> en la historia del teatre son principalmente norteamericanon. El <u>mingipal</u> <u>show</u> derive sus personajes de les eseritores regionales humeristicas, posteriores a la guerra civil, que llegaron a formar un teatre independente y popular a fines del sigle XIX. El <u>envelops</u> derive de la poesía de Walt Whitman y se unó en <u>The Mixnels at Yardun</u> de Soblamberg, presentada en traducción en Rusva York en 1931. El <u>flaghhagi</u> se uné per primera vas en el teatre merteamericane en 1914 en el drama de Elmer Rice, <u>Orfrial</u>.

El significado literal de la obra es obvio y se puede expresar como una tesissel ebrero militante per medio de la huelga, y sólo per la huelga, puede gelpear a sus opreseres en el único lugar doude son sensibles-en el belgillo-y

puede arrencar un page juste per su trabaje.

en común con el <u>lenzmine plez</u> que de un ejemple de une acción y muestre la manera de efectuaria: algunos obreros veneen a los espíse de la compañía y a sua líderes, <u>concebere</u> infiltrados, vendidos a los patrones; una vez vensidos los agentes de los amos, los obreros vez a la buelga con el fin de arrencar para ellos una parte más grande de lo que producen.

El significado co más claro ai se sube al tiempe del cotreno de <u>Lafin</u> Mobia huelgas en casi todos de los 48 estados. "La erisis económica" había llegado a ser "ana crisis del trobaje," y las enformadades económicas del sistema de <u>laiseas</u> <u>faire</u>, a las cuales la administración de Recosevelt había intentado curar dende su primer día en el poder, habías llogado a su periódo más grave. Elentres que los obreros estaban cuda vez más hambrientes, los dueños y la peliola y milicia se ponían más duros. En 1935 el pante extreme se había alcanzado; el obrero no pedia vivir con memos y estaba dispuesto a luchar. Ganó el conflicto de aqual año el obrero, y de esta lucha vino un orecimiente antes desconocide de los sindicatos, que paró sólo con la muerte de Récesevelt.

Los resultados inmediatos de esta lucha erucial fueron (1) la ley federal Vagney en el verane de 1935, que reconocié la existencia legal de les sindicatos y el dereche a la huelga, y que estableció los servicios del gobierno como ter-

eer partido en las disputas entre industriales y los mindienton, garantinando, a la vaz, elècciones libres entre les ebreres para acoptar e rechasar la organisación sindical; (2) la fandación en mevianbre de 1935 del Songreso de Organisaciones Industriales (CTO) que empesé (hoy no le es) como una agrupación de sindicates militantes; (3) la vistoria del CTO mebre el trust del <u>Mig Static en marse de 1937 y después sobre el</u> del <u>Little Steal</u>; (4) el mesacre de los ebreres en Chicage durante una fiesta patria en mayo de 1937.

Lefty madió, pues, durante el periode turbalente que preduje una gran vistoria para el obrere y que duré hasta fiues de la segunda guerra mundial, cuande la ley faft-Hartley y la patente reacción en el 210 montranon la mare fuersa de los reaccionarios, gracias a les millones ganados durante la guerra. Lefty se inspiró directamente en una de las "más vielentas" huelgas de los reletares de Nueva Tork en febrers de 1935 que recibió mucha atención en los periódicos. Paé una lucha pequeña en medio de la batalla principal de la "erisis del trabaje."

Se encuentran significados secundarios a la llamada a la melga en cuatro de las cinco escavas de <u>flachback</u>, dos de las matro siendo my sèméjantes. La primera descubre la vide estémil de una pareja que vive en la miseria y las anonses de la espesa de irse con etre ai su marido no consigue más de la espesa de irse con etre ai su marido no consigue más

liste que rehuse un trabajo con el gas venences y toma el trabaje de ruletero. El smor que no puede realizarse per falta de dinero aparece de nuevo en la deresma escena; al joven suletero y su novia ne pueden cusarse hasta que gane ude dimero. La última escena descubre un doctor que tione que dejar su profesión a comun de la discriminación racial y el nepotismo, los des agrectudos por la crisis económico. Los custre escenas expresan problemas que eran universales en los Estados Unides de 1935. Dos de ellos tionen tanta importancia que ham rescibido la atención de una generación entera de drematurges da protesta social y son al sujeto de dos espítulos en etra parte del presente estudio. La urgencia del problema és los etras dos escenas, "la base eccuómica del problema és los etras dos escenas, "la base eccuómica del suory," se refleja tedavía hoy en un diche popular, aide en 1950, entre los mégares de California; "He's a gued hid, but a dollar short, "

Los materiales rices en conflicto sosial con les cueles Odote construyó <u>Lefir</u> parecerian señelar un temo radical en el pensamiente del jeven dramaturgo, pero al término radical espectfica sólo el pensemiente original sin dispensarie dal prerequisito de ser a la vez precise. Es may duéceo que haya un dramaturgo de protesta que moreres el adjective. Un buen ejemplo, etra vez, se Marine Gorki, cupo remanticisme le mantuvo en dificultades con la jeven Union Soviética.

Odets tonó todo lo que puede tempr^{un}intelectuel y durgués del Esprismo para dar dos direccience principeles a su "diag-/20 monte" sociale de las cuelos hable Gassiers

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Tere seemes in error at show to is press restricted an lot Mitsile an divis agrical is depleting at a ver perticipé en les automatours de Tauris a sector to la class device sectomerican en 1912 sere me partituigé en me sitedes Mi. en mi also are that the odole your and al mostaliant attracts he fotos militation at prolitions could be stated at the state of In example, petition entry plots, as only field

Cagey esti de compte est dicemi en en apinión, "à year de teles me conscioner y signification inclutes, odets no ana al made manan an incretate condicts a maniptente."²⁵ y a peak de ges fritte dellam flammente au termente al manifest¹⁷ Angela de consider junio, and sinte matte ges supe alge del manifese puede llamas functions a status. No hay delipte gipt an 1935 thirty estates is justantis dispositio a ma scheltte pendation part manufer el administre de Salter Alter despase de lear julio de la later futient dispositio a sensetante revolucionante en las interior futien, ⁴²⁸ No assessible es just manufer en las interior dispositio al apter despase de lear julio de la later a intiposed parts sensitive es las pelicities parties de producte ges parts sensitive es las pelicities parties de producte an intiposed parts de la la esperance del tentre de ver a tellare es une de las astituce que se lamantes de ver a tellar solta acette de las astituce que se lamantes de ver a tellar solta de la

Odete munie techniki ein arteklanite, "apter invinitio" am el Zenice Gille enter de min importantie an el junio F transmen. T em realle one se sumate muties, el comme de m me dense yanterieres a residerente benganne. Julio am el felle remitede de la conditantie de une eriste somé sine general con une eriste mericont de Odete, direct beble de la configure que 96010 la diés

No fid moves to may, about his property whate of mining the faciling the times around in his property converted converted which he vanted to belong to the largest preside adverof humble, stranging man propered to make a great comnot offert to bill a better world. Without this, life for his would be landly and hepeloses. In the Group finestry he had found kindered spirits, intellectual stimulation. But no were artists. Say he fait the pass to share his destiny with the landlest woman, with these share his destiny with the landlest woman, with these whe seally stood in the midst of life... He was driven by a powerful emotional imagine, like a lever on the threakeld of an oldgement.

T Odets sizes bottiges to sai pringes sais sheet too trains and marchine to all as age mention searchine y seen to debide a una mocontant pressual. " Talles totalles verific In mouselland in to Lemma smalls we an Oleyn. " made of ment with accepts mathemal Arifs as a cabeti with Yes ma The second Side Contractions, 32 Inte constant in annalisation in Simple a anna Mantar a della de anachana y a Millymool.

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Ver elanes andredietanes permeter as a mater ne es antendectr In Importancia de se tienpé de un neder since Build Latter malant, die enternalies en La doon i nes del traine seclel nerticansiones. Il conentario de dis non active at estable nos indice al effects chediate ou ol -

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The undiance, I may, may deliver, It stands the age, which I permanent the stand of anther to now the pile west from the theory damed and paper; a new on a said confidence had entered their lives.

Inspectantals hal was al madre, yore and le cas institut To reastin an publice 7 of effects de la oben fut en en un touts aldetains. In home tal way deads at estrone to la pass 123

mere obra de Vieter Bugo, drama que comoê tanto furer en el teatro como Lafty. Aunque Gagey exitien que "a la obra le falta antileza, "34 Krutch da la combestación inequivoca, "ne se puedo negar su eficania para legrar todo le que intenta legras."³⁵ No eran "sublica" las ideas del pueble nortesmenttano en 1935. Reperaba el pueblo una obra con algo que decin, una obra como Lefty, en la enal "los puntos estan afirmados, une tras etro, con una sencilios strovida..."³⁶

Tampoco hay dude de que el pueblo aprendió bien la leoción que Lefty y las obras militantes lo enseñeron. Con la ley Wagner subieren gener el reconocimiente de sus sindicatos. y para defender su derecho a la husles, y en los estados stragedos supieren seguir muricade a menes de los "generdias nacionales." los Cossache y etros de la policía previncial vendidos a los patrones. Y en los años de la segunda marra mundial incluse les resocionaries y les gamenters habien en prendide la lección de Lafty. Caendo el fuerte John L. Louis y sus mineres se atrevieron a ir a la huelga en tiempe de merra, mingin reactionario se atrevió a usar al visio recurse de los fisiles y las pisteles de los unifermados del gobierno. Hey on dia. al obrero, para gener de marvo lo que ha perdido dende la muerte de Roesevelt, tendrá que luchar más dure que minge. Mientres heya patronos le luche contra elles sarà eterna, este nos dice la canción sindical "Jee Hill* commenceanée al plonero compositor de concience obre-

res, que murié de une bala de rifle, diciendo "ne llevan lute para al-corganison," Jou Hill he veride a ser la sonbra que inquieta a les dirigientes sinélesles cure motividad presente es contar le que ban hecho en el pasado:

I droamed I saw Joe Hill last night, Alive as you and no Days I "But Joe, you're ten years dead" "I never died" says he.

"Salt Lake Joe, by God" says I Him standing by my bod. "They fremed you on a murder charge," Says Joe, "Ext I ain't dead." Says Joe, "But I ain't dead."

"The popper becaus killed you, Joe. They show you, Joe," says I. "Inkow more than guing to kill a man," Rays Joe, "I didn't die." Says Joe. "I didn't die."

And standing there us big as life, And smiling with his eyes, Jee says, "What they forget to kill Wont on to organize. West on to organize."

"Joe Hill do't dead," he suys to me. "Joe Hill sin't never died. Where workingson are out on strike, Joe Hill is at their side. Joe Hill is at their side.

"From San Diego up to Maine, In every mine and mill Where workers strike and organise, It's there you'll find Joe Hill. It's there you'll find Joe Hill."

Lafiy tiene significado no sèle en los Estados Unides aine también en el testro obyert en el reste del mundo, y hay suficientes rasones pura pensar que temará an lugar como una de las obras que "hiciaron épéce" en el textre mundial. Su afasto, aún en taudusción, se mestró en un incidente en biszico, doude signo en representaciones periódicas del grupe ampezimental. Textre de arte de México, dizigido per Lola Brave. Aunque México aponas ha especade la industrialización, la reacción especifices y enstive frente a la obra recordó el estrene en los Estados Unides. Chundo huyé per la spin "el espís de la competita," un obraro en el público saltó y dié una yutalada al infortunado estera. En Paris la representación de <u>lafin</u> por el <u>Théôtre Independent</u>, dirigida per Clement Harari, provesó en 1949 una reasción semajante ante un públice de obraros, y mando saltó el personaje Fatt hube grites en la sala, "Ymith Lean Jouhaus!"

De iguel manera que pedenos decir que las obras de Clifforé Odots even el ingulse principal el deserrelle del <u>Gram</u> <u>Finaire</u>, pedenos decir tembién que estas obras, especialmente <u>Maiting for Lefin</u>, sen los que han hoche macer el teatre revelucionarie madure en los Estados Unidou, un teatre de bastente calidad artistica para superar a la obra <u>asilement</u> de instanténes comunicación, un teatre primore teatrel y después social que puede mestrar (donde os más dificil--en la tequilla) el respete del públice para el arte y para el contemido del trabajo.

Lefty es la méjer de las tres obras de protosta de Câsta. Silant Partner insklês trataba de una huelga, pero sen monos

arte, y Anaka and Sing trataba de la "proletarización" de la burgassia nortesmaricana y recibió mayor spisuse de mashes exiticos que letty. Las tres protestas todavis son válides y significatives bay en dia, pero las des que significan a letty no pódien regetir el'allegne acodatos de la principa

El equilibria de forma y contantido de la última gamba de teda gras elever y se efertém en <u>maistre for lefir</u> yer la millioneite de Samma movas para presenter un contenido secial y por la parién del dranaturge. Eratek disente con imteligencia el lugar que compa jaffe en el textre social de los Estados Daiduni

Innumerable other "preletation" dramatists have tried do the same wing with fur lass success. Some of the ing with fur land motions. S In Submitsion approxime which we then besides the weaker to usual form of the drama with to do the selle ot bassed and 53 216 conceivably de the ustal fue for other upon torn was developed ing that this The exploy it for directly horbots is and in phot appears to be no man which dramaturey. In Odets, on the Capal sweep of the conventional form availing it could be appeared and form heir stimut ncer cer di edingly an ere nade a **Ga** the source in the provide the second of the source of the second of the the full courses of his court of the To others h to prove that encedat mervice ertation can com hat "revelation a determinatio t đin nohou bo made hertstim d atible with # ary plays cat be two thing The result of 1.5 Wes success where i the others had failed

En joir tonnes un arquetipe dennitice norteanticene que sirve de medice del equilibrie de etras etras remintices de protesta. Esy semejontes arguetipos, fuera del teatro de protesta social, para el estilo clásico en <u>far Sem</u> por Etomten Milder y para el estilo popular en las majores obres que traten de la vida de los megros, <u>Srean Pastares y Ban Little</u> chillun. No hay minguna de ellas que no tenga elementos cotilisticos extraños, pero por el memento sirven para haser estparaciones destro de cada una de los tres estilos-reds en al testro mortesmericano.

Lafly, tel vez, ain sirve de uno de los puntos de referencia para tode la consiente teatrel remántica en la sultara secisental.

1. Lewson, on, cit. y. 284,

2. Harold Clummen, the Fermul Years: the Stary of the Group Theatre and the Thirties, (London; Dennis Dobass, 244, 1945), pp.147s.

3. <u>Ibid.</u> p.156.

4. <u>Ilan</u>.

5. Exte epimodio no fué incluide en la obra en la edición popular "Medern Library": Clifferd Odeta, <u>Six Ziara af</u> <u>Clifferd State</u>, with a preface by the author, (New York: Bandon House, 1939).

6. Eruten, a. cit. p. 265.

7. Lewson, m. ett. p. 252.

6. En <u>Baiting for Lafty so</u> encuentman las situaciones de Polti mimero 622, la rebellón de muchos, y minero 2012, el manuficie de si mismo por el interés de la rerentela y del ymeblo.

9. Gager, 20. 21. 2.173.

10, Launou, <u>20, 415</u>, y. 254,

11. Ind. p. 252.

12, 1400.

11 IN44 p.249

14. "... the characterisation is for the most part erispice much simplicity must be puid for at a certain price. The villains are more corienteres and even the very human heroes coensionally freeze into stained-glass attitudes, as, for example, a certain lady secretary is one of the flash backs does when she suddenly stops in her tracks to pay a glowing tribute to

The Communist Manifests and to unge its perusal upon all and sundry. Krutch, on, sit. p. 265.

- 15. Clumen, on. eit. p.141.
- 16. Genty, m. cit. p.159.
- 17. Clumman, in. cit. p.153.

18. "... the preletarianian of <u>Faiting for Lefty</u> and (in part) of <u>Aumice and Sing</u> became less explicit in his later work." Gauge, <u>and cit</u> p.171.

- 19. Citado por Clumon, an, cit. p.149.
- 20, Ibic. p.150.
- 21. Gasey, so. sit. y.17).
- 22. Lewson, m. cit. p. 252.
- 23. Gasoner, Masters of the Drame. pp. 689s.
- 24. Clumman, on alt. p.151.
- 25. <u>Ibid.</u> yp.150s.
- 26. Gamer, en. cit. p.173.
- 27. Krutch, op. cit. p. 264.
- 28. Citado por Clumman, ch. cit. p.142.

29. Bentley, The Playmericht as Thinkers a Study of Drama in Modern Times, (New York; Baynal and Hitchwook, e1946), p.16.

- 30. Cluman, on oit pp.141s.
- 31. Odets, on git. p. X.
- 32, Lawson, an. cit. p. 251.
- 33. Cluman, m. cit. p.148.
- 34. Gasty, op. sit. p.160.
- 35. Krutch, 90. 213. 2.264.
- 36. <u>Ibid.</u> p. 265.
- 37. 1014. pp. 2658.

Capitulo Custro

- EL MINO DE LA OPORTUNIDADE
- LA MAQUINA Y EL CULTO DE LA VENTA

The Adding Machine

Jeath of a Saleman

Then Nows would enter with her fairy wand, consisting of a brass two-pronged sticks one prong with a gadget that turned the gas on in the chandeller, the other with a war taper tipped by a tiny flame from which were lighted the various jets. These were then turned up or down to just the right low flare. Then she would pull the heavy curtains, closing out the night and enfolding us all in a soft golden glow-with dinner yet to come!

ting Science Memitan, 6 de marse de 19/2

Con estas reminiscencias la autore eveca, como mingumo le ha hache, tante el continiente del mite nortesmericano cone su doctrina en su expresión populars trabaja duramente y serás rice; si "buene" y serás felia. Más allá de esta premesa, no se puede in. El succe perfecto se efectua per el "áxite" complete: ser rice y ser felia. Desde el Eden el henbre ha guardade este succe pero sádio en los Estados Unidos se ha atrovido a premeter se realización.

Pero ya so ha pasado, como la iluminación de gas en la casa de los padros de Penelope Xing.

10ine se strevié a premeterie en genel entiment?

For les des boches finiers y controtes que bigieren la riquesa de bay de les Estades Unidee; un continente, e ensilibre a la explotación, sin eine propiotenie que al estade; una mane de ebra de innigrades que trabajan dure y barato. Hasta 1923 faé posible desir que les des existiaren en realidad. Fore para tempo les tierres gratuites e baraños para

guien las scoupe y les minerales pars guien les éssenbre, habia que pegar el visie large y costego a les Estados Unidos. «De dénde van a compositir este dinero les composinos más miserables de Europe y los destarrades políticos que erusares la frontera corriendo con una sela malotat la dende lo consigne hay en die el bracero mexicane. de los "emmanchadores" de las convelles pertesserionnes. Pero desvués de la llegnée en el barco había que pagarie tede con el trabale. dla shot door dorest Dependent. Y después etre periode intal para parar ol paraje de la mijer eus quedé en la "vicia patria." Entences serà libre. Irá a las tierras meves y a las mines. Fere estás lejes etra vez y el visie questa dinere. Primere, so necesitan algunes aborros. Un periode más con la competia. Y la competia persoa peco-habia tentos inmigrados, había un fondo inegotable de miseria en Sarones

dEs zios? dEs felis? Todavia no. d'Oreyó en el mito? Creyó que era <u>nomible</u>. Otre matite con la compañía, y sij

Pare el ixiandós que construyé les ferrocariles y les conales de les Estados Unides y picé el carbon para la industria jeven, murié cuando estaba al punte de realizar en suelle. Doce afles nel pagades no sen muchos para pagar tres viajes leutes, cares y primitives^deines mil kilénetres. Y les hijes que llegaren pace después de su mujer. Dece afles vivié per premedie el innigrade infandés después de su llega-

da a los Estados Unides. Paro tal ves su suello lo realizarien su viude y sus hijos; Si, posiblemente los hijos. SOT rico y ser folis no era tan facil para una inmigrada con ninos: dEn qué puede trabajar? Las innigradas apenas saben leer y escribir, y la frontera no es para una mujer sola. Louisn cuidará a los miños mientras trabaja? Probablemente no tiene parientes en los Estados Unidos. SY que? Lo de ciempre. Queda el trabajo de eviada donde los ziños pueden quedar con elle y el trabajo todo el mundo lo sabe hacer. Pero ne es facily las horas sou muchas y largast no se hace rica con al seleric. Pero los miños. . Si, par el sucrificio de sus podres estos niños afortunados, nacidos y más o menos educados en los Estados Unidos, puedes hacer todos ir a las tierras meves y gratuitas, ir a las minas, becorse ricos y felicas. H no lo hacen, es por culpa suya-lo explica la filosofía calvinister-o es perque sou malos. Penelope King nos indica el prereguisito calvinista; hay que ser "beuno" para ser rice y felig.

Tel vez nunca se le ocurrié a Penelope Ming y a los stres que creyeron en el mite desde la cuma que es mucho más facil ser "bueno" cuando feliz que felis cuando "bueno," y mucho más facil creer que el trabajo duro trae la riqueza si siendo ya mico, el trabajo duro le tras más miguesas.

Justificado o no, el mito duraba mientras que guedaba continente para rapter e inmigrados para los trabajos nal pa-/34

andos. En 1923 no quedo ensi nada de le uno ni de lo etres Ta era chare que las movas riquesas no consistian en tierras y mines, sins en fébriese y méguines, y que la única manera de hacerse zice era ser évelo de la máquina y no de maneiarla. Il cino bacorne propiotario de mácuines y fábriana? d'Erabajando duro y siendo "buone"? El mito ya era històrico y no real. En este año Elmer Blee escribió la primera dera and estudiaronos. The Adding Machines - Este primer atague comtra the ineriors may sellate "nuches formes al principio del toatre social on les Seindes Uniden. Aunque su protesta principal esté disisión contra la misuina más one contra el mite seneral, el autor meatre les stres amestes de la mere vidas ya ave habis terminado la epoca mitica. Las dificultados del protagenista con sa especa 7 con su patrin preceden de un so-Lo boches yn me hay eperfumidad para di. es un "frasaando": yn ne en pecifie pers él ser rice y felint este, después de 1921 es silo para quien le puede reban, per privilegie e per la fueran. como lo muestra la corrección encandelesa de la administración del presidente Harding-or une seguines viende har en din. Pero la meanimatión era el sintema más ervie de la mova época sin eservanidad mítica. y le surveché Rice para su sétira principal come le hise Mennell Anderson en <u>Hish Terr</u> en 1937. El compañero de la nocazionación en el mundo de las ideas es el intelectualismo y la ciencia mountande. les quales Anderson en Kay Lange. 1919. stade per an freenes al no prover ideal mereland. In shire do la bur-

guería, Reger Micemer, 1923, per John Rovard Levron, vidiezlize el ideal del "éxite" pero más bien ne abstrac con el amar, los suches, la muerte y el venemo. El primer ataque realmente concentrado contra al "éxite" nortesmericano as el que hace Elmer Rice en <u>Councellor At Lev</u>, 1935. John Ecuard Levson lo continúndo en 1932 con <u>Success Story</u>. Las dos obras han sido superadas artisticamente per Arthur Miller en su dera <u>Desth of a Salasmen</u>, 1949, que estudiaremos detallademente en este conjututo.

El Theatre Guild. que empesó inmediatemente después de la primera guerra mundial a intenter legrar un teatro de arte en Nueva York, presentó lo que sus directores considerarda las meteres obras extrapioras ante un público que se suscribió ver adminitado a todas las funciones. y al mismo tienzo traté de estimulara los eseritores para un testro de arte nortessericano. Para las obras nortessericanas el Theatre Guild siguis los pasos emiloradores de los activos Privincetom Plavera entenes habian ayudado al joven Eugene O'Neil y a la poetise Bina St. Vincent Millay con producciones de obras cortas. La obra en un acto de la postisa, <u>Avia da Cano, 1919, es probabienente</u> la primere obre en los Estados Unidos que contiene una proteste social clara.² Esta prizora expresión de una conciencia social. el Grild lo guiso metlejar en 1923 y presentó me 146ing Naching de Miner Rice. Silo une instirución ten poderora come el Guild pude haber representado una obra con tantes in-

nevectones radicules. Sra "mis éxite artístice que pepulage"]

La primera impresión de la obra es de que sa section famtéstica y discontre represente al fremesi de la vida nortesmonienna al servicie del juniness: The idding Jacking marde prefunda y salvajemente, y del merdines y de la disconsacia visues las encelones más fuertes de la obra; Dadaig Levischa desertbe la resoción del públice al estremos

Mr. Bloo's vision of the world may infuriate you, There were propio behind as at the Garriek who first granulad and then arrest polithly. You cannot miss ity you cannot withdraw yourgald from its coherence and ourplateness.

La forma drein es la: de una ebre de protesta social⁵ dividida en siete escenas, Pero para muestre estudie de la formay debenos conscer más acerea de le que courre durante el curre de la acciduï

Internal i zero esté en la esta y la Sra, zero mantiene un menélego conténue con él, mientras ella se propara para acontareo; Se queja actres del cino, de caénte le hubiers guatade ver las películas autes és que hubieren side consumplas, de come deseasion no haberen estade con zero que continúa siende un single conteder de libros come 25 años antes continés es enexem, Edia de alguien que nombre come "ella," y que ya ne se encountra allé, unimende durante la noche, alquien que evidentemente ha pocibide una sentencia de seia meses; "ila continue vage: ¡Yaya con la idea de querer ventra a vivir con la gente respetable;" Mientras la Esse Sure se sube a la sema advierte a se espose que més le vale un ander con etra meiere

Encous 21 Sero se ve trabafande con Datay Diana Dorothen Devorw, susando miseros en une oficine. Ellos heblen y dade uno conversa por su lado. Deiar se quela porque Zero la "soude muche. " Zero hable coefer de "elle." conjeturnido lo ans elle heré encado salga de la cércel. Deisy habla del suicidio: pero no sebe cámo lleverio a cabo. Sero considere las posibilidades de mater a su mujer, pere luego piense que ella se meriné prente de cualquier manere. Delay dessa que su mujer se muera para eus anhes puedan casarse, pero Zero pienga que Dainy seria tan male espose como su mujer. El habla de cine va a conseguir que su jete le suba el sueldo, mientres Beiny suspire por los besos cinematográficos: Cuando susua el timbre Beisy se va y al jefe entre preguntando por Seres Le dice que van a llevaries méquinas sumadores para hacer su trabajo y que a él ya no lo necesitan. Zero vé roje y desmués todo se le obsurves.

Excepte le En el conedor de la casa de Sero, quien ha llegade tarde de la aficina, su especa le realema especialmente abora que van a temer invitados. El sonido de una méquina sumadora, que para la Sra. Sero es el timbre de la puezta, es elde, y ella manda a Saro a combiarse su camisa salpicada de manchas de Minta roja. Sus amigos, los Unos, Doses, Tremes, Camines, Cimcos y Seises llegan, y habian del timpo, de la moda y de cuestiones triviales. Los hombres hasen su grupo y cuentan chistes y las mujeres comentab el último es-

cintele de los Sistes y aci continúen bablando hasta que suona el timbro, 2000 dice "Ye vey, es para si," En la puerta está en pelicia que busen a zare quien ha estade esperindelo. El succ'evalle del belaille diciendo que las manchas sen de sangre y ne de tixta reja y pensadamente le dice a su major; "Ye maté al jefe esta turde?"

Essena 4: Una Corte de Justicia donde los Unos, Dones, Eresea, Cuatron, Cinces y Seisen, integran el juredo: El teotimenie de Eere dura eani toda la essena, El relata, interenlande mineris aqui y allé, la forma eine maté a su jefe con el ganche défes recibes le que sus elles de trabajo habian aido, y que no habia aguantado a su jefe que habilaba y habilaba después de despedirie. El juredo se incomporé al unice-gritandes "Es exigebles." Cuende elles van saliende en fila; Iere les plée se queden; que se ensumire sturiée con tentos admerés en la esbeme

Zanna S: The pareje joven, July O'Grady, y un joven, no vo a la lue de la lune en un consutario; Se acercan a une tunhe move, la de Zaro, y Judy cuenta el joven côno Sero ha side el consunte de su estancia en la cárcel. Cando ellos ne hen ido, Zero se levente de su tunha, diciendo que ervia haber elde la vez de ella. Un ruideme esterunde le sebremalta y sparece shurdin, quien le de la bienvenide al reción llegado. Zero desembre que Shurdin era tupbién un asesino, pare peur que él, pues había matado a su madre. Shurdin le

dice que no quedaré mada para allos, pecadores, Una esbem sperece en etra tumba para hacerlos collar, Finsimente La Cabena los arroja un estace a los conversaderes, pere la esquivan a tiempo, así que bosteza y deseparece diciendo "Hohumi Ye, pere los guesnos?"

Recenc &: In modie de un ambiente pasterel y encentefor some vision a secondary a sharily and esti malaste per haber side enviade sills a los Compos Missons a quedaras harta que él logre "comprender." 21 ya estaba preparado para pamer eastimele toda la chemided. Zero escuela una vos de sufor la enal results sor de Daisre quien le diss que lo ha entado alexiendo durante dias: 20re la presunta qué le ha sucodido, al ha aldo uplantada per un comión y alla lo cuenta que también había perdide su empleo y que delé dierta la llave del ma. Ella eviere habilar con Jero y discuten acerea del pienie de empleades que abendien juntos, cuende la mujer de zero había ido fuera. Se da cuesta que anbes deseaban une al stres yere los dos yenanben que en el etre ne era reciproen la simpetía. Deise admite que abrié la llave del san perens no podía vivir sin él. El se progunta per qué ha side ten malo con ella. regnéradela cuendo ella leja los ménores demaniade despacie e demaniade spring. Mila le pide que la bere y di le hace. Elles eyen une misice que les hace beilar hasta que enca rendides y tienen que depenser. El recarga an eabern sobre sus redillas. Elles quisieran quéderne para

siempre en ese lugar, pero saben que ne es posible ya que esté reservado para los buenes. Shirdlu les informa que se puedem quedan, paro cuande Sere se entera de que les que allí se enquentran se dedican a divertirse y pierden su tiempe con essas tontas come pintar e escribir sanciones, decide irse; Daisy dice que ne le importe al lugar donde astén y que "sin él le dabe lo misme ester yiva."

Resear 7: El telos se abre al social de una máguina senadera y 2010 se ve coarca do en una aficina redeada de cintas di papel degenerallades. El textente Charles y Joe se serven a sere dicióndelo que es hera de retirarse. Ellos tienen que quitario de la méquina a fuerra. El ha estado trabajando en ella durante 25 effort Allos diena que debe regreser a la tierra. com que a Zero le parece imposible ya que él penante. haber pervide at timpe on 1a tierrat pure le informan que no es más sus uns estación reparadors para las simes que han de ser envision mevenente: I se ascebra ol saber out ya ha estade alli muchas veges y como muchas personas distintas. Desde un mono hesta un sisevo, pero siempre como alguna especie de esclavo. Charles le queste que volveri a naver convertido en un babé y qué exembs cremes estaré encargado de una fentiotion ménuine suindere, que registreré el nivel électe de produpuión do pada uno do los hombres de una mina. y que la menofará con el dede gurdes Charles le dice que es un Tracases

You're a failure, Stre. a failure. A waste product

instincts, but not his strength and skill. The animalis appetites, but not his unashaned indulgence of them. ...

Zero pide que lo dejem quedarse, pero Charles le dies que debe irms y que puede llevarse a una muchacha para que le acompeñe, de lo que Zero se alegra. Zero se va siguiendo a una mujer que él cree ver y dir. Se llema Esperansa. Viende esto Joe se echa a reir; pero Charles le da un pulietara en la cara y le dice que se propare para el siguiente. Mientras seca un frasce Charles dice "/Diables, yo le diré al munde que ésta es una tures muy latosa!"

Cada escena tione un tempo diferente: la primera lenta y libret la semunda lenta pero marvada como por metrónomo. La tercera rivida y marcadat la cuarta y quinta tienen una acciereción retardada; la surta es lenta y expensiva; la séptima tions el tiempo de contraste de loutitud y rapides propias de las escenas de juzzade. El pitno es formado per tres secciones riteicas Veriedas, correspondientes a tres obras dentre de la obra. El primer cidio incluvo Las primeras cuatros cocenas, el segundo incluye las escenas cinco y seist y el tercor ciclo es aqual de la escena final. El tinterés sexual se encuentra en los dos primeros ciclos y corresponde en el primero a la frustación de zero por su vida en la tierra y en el segunde a su fraçaso individual en los Campos Elissos. La primera escena resulta una sensación de repulsión contra la vulgaridad de la esposa de Sero, y la segunda escena un soutimiento de impotencia, ya que muestra el fracaso de Zero al

reconcer el mor de Delay: En el segunde siche las semenciones semules se conviertes en positivas y cando la ligam Dalay y el sedentario sero se hacen el ser en la escena seis hay un encante y celer humano que nos recuerdan a Nexlay can se pareja de chad madere en la novela <u>Dermanna en Ebellar</u> suende menes hasta que zoro se vuelve meralista y rechamade el emor de Dalay ano unestra de incepatidad de smati

La estructure de reversiones es also eus Aristôteles ya escribis y que Mellywood une dispissente. Sero gelyesdo, se rebels y con los majeres desees del suditorio perece entilar hade la selución: Cuando la marte termina con an inche y le de mertunided de beer me mere vide ver et ciele." di fregan per enversage de elle e irênicamente regrem a se fitil y original estade on la tierra. La robaldia⁶ de sure miestras outé vivo se contiene en el primer cicle que ha side descrito considerálmente el novimiente de la obre: Tode el ciele tiene interés dremátice a pesar de los mendioses larges and le employer y dierrait. Al contrario, les reveses irinicos del segundo y terrer cicle, no ebutante la execlente estena de aller en el cuadro seis, parecen sús una apécieta e methfore⁷ and the bistorie hundres. Nosotros no tenenos mis remedie que pregentar: ai el cielo es mejer lugar que la tierres iper staf Stron yn gwr enpenske a cenvertirne en henbre a través de sus protestas y acciones, es una figura más mise-Terrete en el cielo ave entre las frustaciones de la tierra?

El mitor quita la última esperansa que tuvo Zero... y el amditerio.

La lógiva de la obra os precisa, de acuerdo con la prueba de Prise:

A. Sero se rebela contra el <u>business</u> y las pequeñeces de su vida y se mata por la sociedad.

E, No puede aguantar la libertad y la amplitud de la vida en los Compos Elíseos; rechasa el mor, la libertad y el placer y vuelve a ser un contador de libros.

C. Se condena como esclavo perenne por las unioridades de los Campos Eliseos y se manda de nuevo a la vierra para operar una super-super-hiper máguina sumadora.

La obra se encuentra colocada en una ciudad estadounidense pece después de la primer guerra zundial. El escenario tione por fin crear una atmósfera por medio de recursos expresionistas como el de empapelar las paredes "with sheets of foclacep," out ol autor especifics para las escenas who y tres. El ambiente del periódico y del cine toman una parte impertante en la acción y se menciona en casi todas las esconas. El tono de la obra siempre es smarge y a menudo irémico. Es notable en esta versión norteamericana del expresionime la composición plástica de la escena tres, en la cual los vecinos de Zero, Unos Des, Tres, Custre, Cinco y Seis accupations de sus espesas llegan de visite. "A le largo de ende pared siete silles se encontran slineades simétricemente, " y cuando los vecinos entran "en doble columna, " cada hombre toma una milla de la pared derecha y cada mujer de là isquierde. "Onde some forme un circule con les silles muy

juntas. Los hombres, todas con excepción de Zero, fuman puros. Las mujeres sorben checolate." Las frases cortas y rápidas de la benal conversación son disparadas en orden numeral, del seis al uno, alternando el grupo femenino y el masculino. Esta escena es un magnifico ejemplo de la técnica expresionista alemana que Gassner caracterisa como "la estilización mecanizada."⁸

Los caracteres son todos silustas, excepto Daisy y Zero, aunque éstes poco merecen el nombre de caracteres: ni uno ni otro está establedido en la escena dos, ni tampoco la está zero en su monólogo durante su juicie. Zero en la escena cinco, escuche únicemente y hace ineques ecmenterios a la historia de Shirdin. Es únicemente en la escena seis que Zero y Daisy son personas. En esta escena un interés nuevo, un calorcillo tierno son construídos sólo para desilusionarse en la escena siete que sirve inicadente para concluir la anéccota. Si se hubiera suprimido la escena seis la obra estaría mejer propercionada, pero en ese caso hubiera necesitado una escena estilizada de fantasía expresionista para recupiazaria. Otra selución posible que pude haber permitide "el calor" de la escena de mor con una escena concluyente de "juicio" es acuella usada per Brotch en Dar suite Monach von Semien, pero ésta hubiera requerido fundir nuevamente las escenas expresienisticas en el estilo popular.

Estilisticemente The Adding Machine es une mescalange

principalmente expresionista, y por lo tanto dentro de la corriente del estilo-reals remántico. En parte es una fantasia no remántica (siménimo de "anécdota intelectual"), es simbolista en su intento de integrar y unificar la obra contralisándola en 2000, y en otras partes es francemente representativa esmo comenta Gagay:

These plays berrowed the expressionistic technique _______ from Bugene O'Heill or from his German models, thus de-parting from the photographic realism of the twenties, In spite of their imaginative treatment, they must be considered essentially realistic in purpose and effect, 9

La influencia de O'Meill en Rice fue considerable en los primeres años en que O'Meill era aclamado como el salvador del textro nortesmericano. Las obras de Rice nos muestram la influencia de O'Meill, pero como sualquier initación, meremente ilustra los defectos de O'Meill. En las últimas tres escenas de <u>The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas de <u>The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas de <u>The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas de <u>The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas de <u>The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas de <u>The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas de <u>The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas <u>de The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas <u>de The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas <u>de The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas <u>de The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas <u>de The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas <u>de The Adding Machine</u> encontranse un absolutione más escenas <u>de The Adding Machine</u> el la rendija trágica" y el "destine" anda en el eixe de los Capos Elísses donde zere el rebelde me deblega a su "suerte."

ZERO: Well, that ain't the point. The point is I'm through: I had enough: Let them find somebody else to de the dirty work. I'm sick of bein' the goat: I quit right have and now! (He glares defiently, There is a thunderedep and a bright flash of lightning.) ZERO: (Sereaming). Och; What's that? (He clings to Charles.) CHARLES: It's all right. Nobody's going to hurt you. It's just their way of telling you that they den't like you to talk that way. Pull yourself together and calm down. You can't change the rules, nobody can-they we got it all fixed...

Aunque no de la especie de "<u>min in in skr</u>" este esquena corrado de las comes no se llova bien en el Elmor Rice que conocemes come un Seterne rebelde, come el hombre que remunció a ser une de les directores del <u>Faderal finantre</u> porque se sintió compremetido por la burogracia y <u>legralling</u> de Washington, Estes Compos Elíseos redecorados come una selva Rousseauiena hubieran quedado mejer come ambiente para "Lank" que para Zore.

Si O'Neill influye en Rice, también hay reages en el trebaje de O'Neill de la influencia de Mése. En muchas formas su relación es parecida a la de Andreyev con Gorky, cuyas obras tecaren las mismas exestiones y efreciónsoluciones epusatas durante más de 10 años que elles deminaron al teatro ruso. Gerky come Rice, es un escriter de protestaj Andreyev câme O'Neill es un absolutista por las nubes. Es muy interesante ebservar el odie hasis le mecanizado en <u>The Adding Maching</u> transformade en la tragedia de O'Meill, <u>Drasmo</u>, 1929, es una spalagía para la adoración de la máquina. <u>Drasmo</u> es una obra sin vida que sóle O'Beill y Henry Adams pudieren apreciar perque su autor escogió un estile "simbolista." Estos patrones sociales abstractes como el culte de la máquina pueden ser únicamente representados per la taquigrafía del expresionismo.

Las otras obras de Rice son de estilo predominante naturalistà: Una excepción se encuentra en los tonos lívicos

de <u>Sirnei 30000</u>. Los géneros que ha umado han sido una especie de "tragodia naturalista," hije de Hauptmann, en <u>Ja tha</u> <u>Peopla</u>; el problema reméntice se encuentra en <u>Street Sonnés</u> 7 en efecto ha usada casi todos los géneros reménticos, Sus especialidades particulares han side la obra de protesta en el estilo reméntico y el melodrema del jusgado, como en <u>Ca</u> Trial, en el estilo popular.

El lenguaje de <u>The Adding Mashine</u> no esta particulariendo, todo pertenese a Rice. Le más monarable es quiné el large monélogo de la Sru. Zere en la escena uno que es magnifice en su vulgaridad. Menos interesante y tel vez demasiade large es el monélogo de Zere en el jusgade. Hay algunos discurses en la escena final fatigeses per su longitud y hay <u>smari</u> gracka come "Ye para los gueanes" al final de la escena cince que pueden sor de mal guste para algunas personas.

Come tede le del textre expresionista, la obra resulta major actuada, que leida, aunque algunas de las pequeñas jeyas de vulgaridad notadas en la lectura son tan sutiles que pueden facilmente sor perdidas en el escenario. También come etras obras expresionistas, de más importancia e la acción que al carácter o al diálogo. La mayor importancia de <u>The Adding Marghine</u> en la historia del textre nortesmericano es que introduce el expresionisme¹⁰ alemán en los Estados Unidos; pero debemos recordar que John Howard Lawson también mes dió una obra expresionista en marso del mismo año. De los dos, Rice pesiblemente per su tempergmento se sienta más natural dentro del

estile expresioniste; pero Lemeon produjo trabajos de más imaginantán y comprendió más claramente que Rice que las posibilidades nortesmericanas del expresionismo eran majores con la sátira pura, y que mesclándele con el naturalismo e el simbolismo prelijo de una naturaleza poco vehemente podía resultar solemente la confusión artística.

El primer atentado nortemoricano para distinguir plásticomunte entre la persona de adentro y la de sfuera se encuentra en la escena dos, cuando Sero y Daiay están sontados en dos altos taburetes aute sus cuentas y sus libres, bajando las cabezas para expressor sus pensemientes y levantándelas para hablar abiartemente el uno con el otro. Eucone O'Neill Más terde usó una técnica similar en su Great God Brown, 1925, y Strange Interlude, 1928. Le escene final de The Adding Mechine nos muestra la prodilección del licenciedo Rice para las escones de juicles que emplesan con su primera obra en 1914 y continúen por lo menos hasta Jedement Day. 1934. En algunas de ellas llega a su tesis per medio de una escena de "juicio" de la ancién presedente. Establece un tribunal auténtice o improvise une. Esta técnica es semeiente a la de Bertold Breden en Der Aute Menach von Semien y en Der Kaukawinche Kreidekreis que a su vez tienen "semejanza con el teatro ohine. "II

Les clementes sinbàlices se enquentran principalmente en des caracteres. Strudiu represente el fanátismo nortesmerico-

ne y el códige estricto e imperible de la moral que produce tan súle la hipetresia. También él representa la leyenda del "hombre serio" inventado por norteamericanos de posición privilegiada para explotar a los inmigrantes trabajadores que l llegaban constantemente, al menos hasta que las leyes de inmigración se combiaron después de la primera guerra mundial; Zere es también un símbele de rebeldie hasta que termina ésta, después de matar al patrén. De allé en adelante él es naturalista y símbélicamente un esclave de <u>bisiness</u> y de la máquina. Se besqueja a Shurdlu con una téonica expresionista caracterisada por una vehemencia subjetiva, mientras que se returata a Zere en una variedad de subestilos drumáticos con virtiéndose así en un símbele más vage y menos eficas,

El significade literal de <u>The Adding Machine</u> es la comdensaión de la máquina y de la esclavitud que impone al hombre. El odio hacia la máquina tiene sus reices en las creencias europeas semi-cristianas del sigle XIX. La idea, comtrada principalmente en Alemania y Rusia, fué que el únice remedio para la eschevitud humana era la abolición de la imdustria y el regrese a la agricultura. Estas ideas entre los trabajadores nortesmericanes son expresadas en la balada de trabaje de los negres, <u>John Henry</u>, en la cuel el héree negre lucha contra la máquina y pierde;

When John Henry was about three days old, Sittin' on his pappy's knee, He picked up a harmor and a little piece of steel, Oried: "Hammar'll be the death of me, Lord, Lord," Oried: "Hammar'll be the death of me, "

The Captain said to John Hanry, "I'm gomma bring that steam drill around: I'm gomma bring that steam drill out on the job, I'm gomma whop that steel on downess"

John Henry said to the Captain, "Bring that thirty pound henner around; Thirty pound henner with a nine foot handle, I'll beat your stems drill down..."

John Henry drove fifteen feet, The steam drill only made nine, But he dosve so hard 'till he broke his poor heart, And he laid down his hammer and he died...

Gorelik nos dice que el expresionismo slemán "fué históriesmente un movimiente de insurgentes liberales, con est tandartes de abstracta justicia y un monsaje de buena volumtady pero sin mingún programa definido elaramente. Prácticomente, la aspiración expresionista hacia "una sociedad racional ordenada, basada en el ideal erificiano de justicia social" reclamaba el regreso a los ideales de la comunidad cristiana primitiva. El gobierno elemán demborata-social, telerá a los expresionistas y hasta los apayó... considerande sus doctrinas sociales inclensivas. El etre partide alemán de trabajadores, el comunista, fué más severe en su eritica, manteniende que era destructive y desemperado el propósite de abalir la industria.^{al.j} Era una selución pesimista,¹⁴ megativa y desilusionada, pero había cierto lugar para el pesimismo después de que Marx en el <u>Camital</u>, había

deporito, apoyado en informes oficiales del Parlamento, lo que la industria inglesa estaba haciendo con los trabajadores ingleses. El expresionismo no encontró mucha esperanza en la lucha de los marxistas. "pocos dremas expresionistas ne encontraban en un plan político. 415 Dempués de la colda de la Comma francesa de 1870 y del incumplimiente de las premesas pacifistas de los socialistas, especialmente los franceses e italianos, en la vispera de la primera guarra mundial siguiendo previos juramentes de no participar en los conflictos armados europeos, los expresionistas no aceptarem ideas positivas, ni signiera políticas. Un estudio de sus obras revels que los dos principales temas son estudios negatives de guerra y revolución. En el tiempo en que ellos escribieron, la única esperanza del mevimiente trabajador mundiel era la revolución en Buais, que són luchaba en una sangrienta guerra civil contra una reacción bien organizada.

Es muy facil ver por qué los artistas alemanos se encontraban emergados y sin esperansa, especialmente, si acoplados a estas condiciones consideranos la sensibilidad de los artistas aguijoneada por la vulgaridad de la clase modia. Este doble compleje se balla bien ilustrado en los dibujos y escenografías de George Gross, quien influenció muche tento el teatro expresionista come el éfico, Gross¹⁶ es probablemente el europee de espíritu más propense a la desilusión de los artistas smericences voluntaries expatriados de

los años 20 y a la profunda margura de Mimer Rice.

Be más fácil explicar un espíritu ceas éste por la cerencia de un punte ventafese desde el cual peder atacer la celture cristelisada, contrelada en su expresión general por les estenquilleros, y en su gobierno y su política econômica por los capitalistas. La consdia era una imperibilidad en teles situaciones percus no podía encontrar puntos vulrerables en la cultura. El núblico se efendía de las burlas y no se conseguia haceria reir. Meredith¹⁷ se quela de la carencia de comedias en el sélide nunde victoriane. Bentlev18 dice aus el problema plantendo per Meredith había sido resuelto en la comedia fin de misele de Caser Wilde y deduce que el bohemienime era en aquel tiempe la única posición desde la cual deserver a la culture burguese. Pare varies escritores franceses de la época la finica ventaiona posición era la completa decadencia. Pué inicamente quando spareció Shaw con su inteligencia que hube una posición establecida en Inglaterra pera la comodia de critica racional.

Los dos corrientes paralolas europeas-odio hacia la méquina y desilusión per parte de los trabajadores a cousa de su fracesa en la lucha para protegorse de la máquina-cundieren a través de tode el mundo capitalista. Ellos están asociados con el precese histórico de la concentración económica en los siglos XIX y XX, lo cual en la opinión del que estribe; ni Rice ni muchos de sus antecesores lograron comprender. Mi

el capital (en los Estados Unidos justineme es el eufenismo con el que siempre ha side llamade el capital, ata per sus enemicop-efemplos la frace hig business) ni la mécuina en su estado primitivo sen esencialmente el esperal e el abusador de los obreros que los manejan. El problema es más quantitative que cualitative. Un estudio de la historia nos muestra la incouidad de las cantidades del capital flexible y controlable en las ciudades italianas al fin de la edad media. No hubo un Harry Bridges que se levantere en ese tiempo en defenm de los marineros. Estivadores y almacenistas italianos. Lai mismo dificilmente podenos ver eine la mienina de vaper de Watt trabajaba desventajoessente para los mineres cuando se la puse a banbear las minas innundas. El abuse del trabejador se enquentra en la concentración de capital y máquinas y tione : su base en el poder obvismente ficticio del dinero: el pessedor de cualquier cuenta de aborros sabe muy bien que 50,000 pesos tienes más de 10 veces el peder de 5,000 pesos en las manos de la misma persona. Esta floción hase que el dinero de cualquier hombre parte de una función lineal, y se aproxime a otras múltiples al incrementarse, hasta que adquim ere el valer de una función cuadráda o cúbica, como sucede actualmente en los Estados Unidos. La función, o fieción, cóbica contemporânea alconza se máxima multiplicidad cuando es capas de determiner le legislación (tel como la del salario minime y del combes sin discriminación hay en dia en los Este-

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des Unides) y la política de las agencias ejecutivas encargadas de ejecutar las leyes. La parte "sueve" del poder fioticie del dinero es la adición de un poder político-económico al simple económico, quando la concentración es de importancia nacional e internacional. Este por supuesto afiadide al heche de que la potencia económica simple ne es lineal, aún en ecacentraciones locales.

Les términos de dinero que hemes usado pueden ser reemplandes per cualquiera etra unidad del cavital (méquine per elemio) le cual es después todo la contentración productiva auténtica: el dinero sirve faicamente como conveniencia e indiender en la amertización y contabilidad. y como consumidar de los motales menos comunes. No es la mácuina la unidad dofinitiva en la concentración del capitals las máquines tienen que ser nevides per algo más poderese que los brases y piernas de los hembres. Venes en la actualidad la transferencia de alamos de les más importantes capitales en el mundo hacia el control de la energía constitúa por las máguinas.29 la máguina limitada a la combustión de madera o carbón ha sido desplasada por la méquina copas de utilisar recursos de emergía flexibles y líquidos, tales como el petróleo, carriente eléctrica. perficide de hidrógene, aqua pesada y uranio. La defenan del hombre contra la concentratión de capital ya no está dirigida solemente contra la concentración de maguinaria sine también contra el control de las altemente concentradas fuentes de

energia controladas per los hombres. Esta defensa para Rice era individual y fútil. Por eso su conclusión era pesimistat el hombre es demasiado esclavo para dominar a la máguina. Pore her en dia pedence ver el únice heche real que ha contribuide a esta defensa: la concentración del poder del obrero, en sus sindicatos y partidos políticos, que ha seguido paso a paso la concentración de les capitales. Apenas se enfronten las dest la del obrere no domina todavía: pero en ella radica la defensa eficas del henbre. Hasta el grado en que el obrero individual mations so muestre instruido el es proceso histárice y firme en su centrel democrático de su sindicato, hasta al migno grado se ganará el dominio sobre la máquina y las etras concentraciones económicas. Le tares se hace más facil los nuevos recursos de energía no es expitalista y el capital necemerio a su explotación viene des estado. El problema es del control político, por parte del obrero, de dirigientes y no de duction.

Rice vió en parte el procese histórice cuando protestó; ne sole contra la máquina sine también contra le que las máquinas hacen a los hombres cuando son camipresentes y camipetentes. Caricaturina el procese del crecimiento de la máquina hasta dominar a sus esclavos humanos, cuando en la escena final regresa Zero a la tierra para operar "ne una de esce sutiouadas máquinas sumaderas...una soberbia, super-hiper-sume-

dora... sin mingún esfuerzo humano exceptualdo la ligera prosión del dedo gordo del pie derecho, " Zero tembién se comvierte en máquina, bujo el mismo proceso per el cual el espital concentrado se convierte en una gran máquina que controla e elimina a las máquinas más pequeñas y a los <u>robots</u> humanos que las operan. Este proceso se puede sintetisar en una variación de la deliciosa frase a través de la cual la teoría de "la supervivencia del mejor," quedó popularimada en los países de habla española: La maquina grande come a la máquina chiem.

Los 28 años desde 1923 ayudan a disculpar a Rice el frecaso pareial de su intento de vor el verdadero carácter del peso de la concentración económica sobre los empleados, y no es el único entre los escritores norteamericanos que trata problemas sociales faltándole perspectiva histórica. Unos suantos han adquirido una especie de criterio contemporáneo para ver las fuerzas y movimientos sociales astuales, y podrísmos llamar a tal criterio "la dialóstica encegida," abslutista, y mo-dinémica, a causa de que únicomente tiene una base momentánea. Tan sóle un conocimiento más amplio de la historia que abaque muchos perfedes y muchos pueblos, nos presentará una verdadera perspectiva de los preseses y relaciones históricas; y si uso la palabra "relaciones" espero que será obvio, que el único método verdadero, para un análisis de los precesos históricos es uno que sea dinámice y

relativista. Odeta, Lewson, y sus semejantes son cuando maches momentáneos y absolutistas en sus amélisis; en la actuslidad parece ser que no existe dramaturgo norteamericano con un adecuado método para los amélisis históricos de los problemas sociales.

The Adding Machine toon, adenás de lo discutido enteriermente, otros alvass sociales como materia de protesta. Entre ellos está la vulgaridad de cuello alto que es el hije de la vubgaridad burguese. le misme que hise huir a Maunessant de la torre Eifel. Les escones me y tres son unes megnifices rediografias cincuéticas expresionistas del virus dentro de m habitadin nativa. Particulamente efectivas son las notas taculgráficas de Rice sebre la vulgaridad de las actitudes tipe cinematograficas y periodisticas. Parece ser que hey al pueblo nortesmericano²⁰ ha remunciado a la esperansa do corregir la vulgaridad del modio tradicional de la comunicación en massa y inicomente con el advenimiento de un medie meyo, el pueble parece escuchar las protestas contra su prestitudión. Como se puede ver en la actual contreversia de tolevisión, sunque, sin embergo, mucho de ello es solo una cortine de huno sobre los conflictos comerciales

La educación nortesmoricana tembién recibe en su turno una befetada. Las frasse finales de la corta condenación de Rice sugieren la ausencia de una base cultural más emplia yera un sistema de educación tan provincial y específico como

entremeniento militar.

You'll learn to fear the sunlight and to hate beauty. By that time you'll be ready for school. There they'll tell you the truth about a great many things that you den't give a dama about and they'll tell you lies about all the things you ought to know and about all the things you want to know they'll tell you nothing at all. When you get through you'll be equipped for your lifeweak. You'll be ready to take a job.

Ignalmente eficas es la esticatura corta, smarga de la dimeriminación contra las minorías religionas y contra los económicamente determinados "cindadanos, de segunda claso," quienes deben quedar "recluidos en su lugar," en tal forma que el burgués y sus initedores de cuallo alto puedan vivir confortablemente o por lo monos "respetablemente";

SIX: Too down much adjustion, that's at the better of it. FIVE: That's it! Too down many strikes. FOUR: Foreign adjusters, that's what it is. THREE: They ought to be run sum. The country. TWO: that the hell do they want, anyhow? ONE: They don't know what they want, if you ask me. SIX: America for the Americans is what I say! ALL: (In unison), That's it! Down foreigners! Down destes! Down Outhelles! Down sheemies! Down Higgers! Jail 'on! shoot 'on! lynch 'on! burn 'on! (They all rise, sing in unison.) "My country 'tis of thes Sweet Land of Liberty!"

Prevismente hence discutido la moralidad representada per shirding relacionada con alla está el pudor sexual pervertádo el cual queda tipificado per el estépido "chiste colorado" de los publicellios mortesmericanos, Sentados en el sillón de la pelmquería podemes cir a "los muchadhes" expresar su conscimiento del mundo sobre la filtima recia lassividad periodística e comparar sus banellas de casa de citas, "Los muchaches" quienes nunce han sido amantes ni siquiera de sus esposas, nos recuerdant a Sero espishdo a través del pattie a la prostituta medio vestida, y Sero rehusando el amor de Dainy, como no siendo suficientemente puritano. Sero y "los muchaches" han sido educados tan cuidadosemente que sen encapaces del emor sexual, y (por Belcebil que son capaces de correr del pueblo a cualquiera que intente hacerlo.

Il mito nortempricano del "éxito" se menciona de pasada como uno de los artículos del oredo de cuallo tieso de la Bra. Sero. Su golpe terminante en el monólogo de la disputa deméstica, es la de que Zero ha sido 25 elles un contador sin ningin ascenso. "¿ us hay de lo de per gerente de la tienda? Supongo que ya te alvidaste de eso o nó. * Esta herencia desde los días de "los varones ladrones." cuyos iévenes adoraderes fueron idealizados en las historias de Horavio Alger, da al empleade cuelle dure y al burbarata su talada por su labor productora, y lo proves de un clima de moralidad social en el cual los Costello y "los ecepsieres de bateria" de Trusen pueden prosperar. El empleade sostiens el mito del éxito como un dereche inclienable con la cuieta esperanza de que un dia la opertunidad pueda convertirio también a él en un Costelle. Este mundo tenebroso del éxito fué reveledo tembién per F. Scott Pitzgerald on su novela The Great Gataby.

Un últime significado que debe ser discutido es el de la mentalidad cobardemente esclava inherente a Sero, "Todod los patrones y los reyes que han existido han dejado su marca de fábrica en tus malgas"---ya desde que Zero era un mono. Ya so-

bemos que Zero fué un esclavo varios miles de allos antes de que se inventara la máquina de vaper. Aquí Rice otra vez ene en los errores de Engene O'Neill; Zero es un esclavo a través de la brocha inherente al hombre que proviene desde al smanecer de los dioses. De un node modeste ne gustaría sugerir lo contrario, que un hombre adquiere una mentalidad eselava por haber sido puesto y mentenido en esclavitud en vez de su adquisición gradual de facultades, requisite para ser admitido en la condición de esclavo.

iqué Béckinnes encontrar en los periódicos de 1922 que pudiera haber animado a Rice a egeribir su smarra condennation de la promia base de la vida nortesmericana y sus activides? [Cantidad] En east ovalouier aspecto de la "caltura" anerienna del ticomo el cuadro es repuenente. La "cama de los rejos" estaba en su mátbre: los veteranos de la American Ingian malien malir con sus perrast al ku klux klan llevaba a cabo sus fecherias de noche en casi todo el país; Sacco y Vansetti estaben presos esperando la muerte. El ausento del costo de la vida seguia su ascenso fuera de los amentos de salario dende los días de antes de la guerra. El huelquista tenía que escoger entre velver a su trabajo bajo los términos del petrón. o ser balaceado por elguien portando un brazalete de autoridad del gobierno local o del Estado. El gobierno fedorel estaba abiertemente en las menos del husiness para el husiness. Bobos strevides de bienes públices y la servissión de

mordidas de parte del Custodio de Propiedad Extranjera, el Procurador General, el Secretario de la Maxima, el Secretario de Gobernación, los jefes del Servicio de Veteranos y la Comisión Maxítima y un miembro del Senado de los Estados Unidos compriseron mientras que el pueblo temía en los cidos la frase irónica del Presidente Harding, "<u>Dusinama</u> como de costumbre." Los mejores escritores fuera del teatro se quedason e huyeron al extranjere y los menos artísticos que permanecieron en los Estados Unidos fueron acumilando gritos de protesta.

Rice no mecesitaba maber historia para escribir <u>The Add</u>ing Machines di pudo sacar la mayoria de sus análisis de los diarios que estaban, como nunca, al servicio de la "gran memtire," como el libro²² de Upten Sinelair, tres años antes imdieós pero sóm la "gran mentira" no se atrovió a esconder completamente la bancarrota moral de los dirigientes del país. El propio gran "jingo," William Randolph Hearst, fijos sus ejos en un puesto político tuvo que somoterse a una especie de radicalismo marca "Brisbans" en su periódicos para cortejar al cauto y cansade votente. Una mutua sespecha sin embargo agrió este coqueteo, y Hearst pronto regresó a su "cana de rejos," macionalismo eien por cien y erimen pasional.

La línea seguida en <u>The Adding Machine</u> se repite en etras chras de Rice y revela ciertas actitudes consistentes. La protesta contra el caital no controlado²³ se repite en su

importante obra <u>Stract Scene</u>, 1929. Signe siende un porenne rebelde en sus días del <u>Federal Theatre</u> y en su posterior gerencia de su prepio teatre que comercialmente fué un fracaso. El será, a su muerte, el mericano lógice heredere del epitatio de Suifts

Donde la indignación feres Ya no puede despedasar su corasón, 24

Su manera de pensar es radical pero Jeremiaca, y tiene la limitación de ser más doctrinaria que smalitica. Es le que podría ser llamado contradictorismente un radicalisme de "oppítule y verso." Su propie sufrimiente es sparente en su trabajo y su biografía nos muestra su earencia de un punte de seguididad prevechoso desde el cual poder atacar los abusos que lo habían enfurecida. Su problema tempermental come artista probablemente la encontrance en su vacibación de entrer en un puro expresionismo satírice en la espera de dar más calor humano a su obra, pero sufre demasiade y no logra combinar lo humano con un punto de vista positivo. Su obra es hacia sus personajes más hiem simpética que esperansada;

La influencia de Rice sobre etros drematurgos ha side mayor que sobre el públice teatral. Para el estudiante de la forma dramática contemporánea los modelos incluyen a Rice, O'Naill y John Heward Lawson, los tres más importen tes innovadores de formas en el teatro nortesmericano, ningune de los cuales ha escrite una obra con suficiente sembado proterior para gamar un gran éxito popular e para ser comparable con

las mejores ebras en las formas tradicionales tales como melodramas, comedias sentimentales, etc. La importancia histórica de Rice como autor de la primera obra importante de protesta social en el sigle IX queda firmemente establecida en el contenida de su obra así como en la forma.

Le impertancia espetifica de <u>The Adding Machine</u>, radica principalmente en ser una "primera," pero la vulgaridad de su primera escona y la vulgaridad expresionista de la escona tres, no han sido afa superadas, a juicio del que esto escribe. La sintesis de Gagny del efecto de la ebra en su propio tiempe parece justo:

not.... unduly successful in the excellent Guild production but, earlies exitical interest, 29

La obra contiene una protesta que es tan válida en la actualidad como cuando fué escrita, y. es la obra más pertinonte de Rice. En algunas de sus etras obras es más artístico, pero en minguna es tan directa e inmediatemente significativo como en su primera obra expresionista.

Cuando nos ponemos a establecer el equilibrio entre el contenido de <u>The Adding Machine</u> y su forme, las deficiencias previemente anotadas en en bas deben ser recordadas. La forma muestra una desconcertente mescla de estilos teatrales, de ritmos, de enracterización, de lugar y de tono; le cual nos fuerza a concluir que la estructura es la de tres obras interiores, o ciclos de forma contrastante. Uno puede llemaria, poco generosamente, una mescla de una caricatura satírica con

un célido estudio del personaje y una escena naturalista de tesis.

En el contenide hanos viste huallas de una cierta corrupción de O'Neill, predilecciones absolutistas acerca de la eternidad y el destino, así como una sussencia de una más soplia perspectiva histórico, la cual Louischa tembién sugiere es un regulaito de las obras impresionistas;

If this form of art is to be effective and beautiful, it must be very sensitive and very severe at once. Beneath it must be fundamental brain-work, thinking as resilient as shell and as clean out as egated... You can describe fragmentarily and produce fragments of truth. Baliss does not consit you to any whele. In expressioniss the antrodent grasp of your outire material must be firm, definite, complete. Everything must be thought out and thought through. This is what, despite memories of highest brilliance and glow, Mr. Begane O'Neill did not do in the Hairy And. This is what, in a harder, drier, less postion win, Mr. Else has actually susceeded in doing in The Adding Maching.

La filtima france de Lowischn puede ser accptada como válida súlo como comparación del éxite de Rice con el de O'Reill. Ni opinión personal es que el trabajo de Lawson está mejor "pensade y pesado" que el de Rice. Lawson hiso tanbién la primera predicción real respecto a las formas que el emprosionisme debe temer en los Estados Unidos y su dedicación a las merdaces enricaturas de la sútira social, aunque él me logró una satisfactoria sintesis drumática sutes de que dejera el tentre para dedicarse a augumentista de cine.

Enl ves major terminade, can la incorporación de la misico, que cualquiera de las obras expresionistas discutidas

agui, se enquentra Mare Elitzstein en su obra The Cradie Will Rock. 1938. que participa tento en el estilo pepular de las satiras musica es ligeras-caracterizado por Gilbert y Sullivan. el minstrel show nortesmericane. y por Of Thee I Ming de Kaufnan and Ryskind-come participa en el expresionismo encontrado en Rice y Lawson. Anbos cauipos. Gilbert-Sullivan y Kaufman-Byskind, tienen un punto de ventaja dentro de las filas de los refermadores burgueses educados, donde ellos pueden escribir obras "más chistosas que el gobierno y no tan peligromse²⁷ con un contente mércuido educado. Elitestein puede participar en las formas del estilo popular uendes en este perspective burguese selemente al coste de contradecir el estilo remántico de su protesta, y no tiene etre punto de ventaia porque su contemporaneidad de análisis social contiene una perspectiva histórica sóle un poco más larga que la de Rice y la de Lewson. Tal vos en Los Estados Ubidos donde el expresionismo encontrará su perspectiva más favorable al aném lisis histórico social. que permitirá que sus caricaturas merdaces, satiricas y taquisráficas, sea tan persuasivas tono económicas, ten verdaderas como poéticas, y que nos dará a la vez un nueve género mayor en el teatro mundial, y el arquetipo del género movo.

The Adding Machine, que con su falta de equilibrio menos obvia por faltas de forma, así como de contenido, es la obra más importante que antecedende al firmemente aschtado teatro

nortemericano social expresionista, que yace como vehemente promesa sobre el horizante.

En <u>Weiting for Lefty</u> vimes, durante las años de la "dep presión económica," la proletaremplicación de la clase media, En <u>The Adding Machine</u>no vimos tal proceso entre los empleades de quello alto, y al contrario vimos la imitación esclava de las vulgaridades burguesas y la creencia en el mite de la bonanza. En la obra que estudiaremos a continuación veremos al preceso epuesto al de <u>Lefty</u>, veremos el mito del éxite y el culte de la venta en plema madures, veremos crecer el desprecio hadia el trabajo homesto en el hijo de un vendedeny y escushemos una protesta en contra de lo que el mundo de la venta hace³ hombre que vive en ella;

La verdad de Lafin duré pece tiempe; un minero mucho más grande de allos en cada cielo del <u>huminam</u> al estilo <u>laig-</u> ass faire nos muestran un minero ereciente de trabejadores en los Estados Unidos que están ganando las conveniencias burgueans y con ellas las actitudes burguesas. El trabajador del granio manoja un coche de la misma marea que el comerciante pequeño, el empleado e el vendedor, tiene los mismos muebles y el mismo minere de amilianose para la casa, y va al mismo cine y los los mismos periódicos. Manda a su hijo a la univermidad para estudiar "la administración comential" y para tener los "contactes" de un buen club social estudiantil; asepta para su hijo el mito de la benanza. Piensa que su hijo

tendrá ventajas que no tuvo él como obrero. La nueva "oportunidad"---ya no queda la explotación ni del continente ni de los inmigrados---es más limitada. Ya no se puede hacerse ricos pero se puede hacerse burgues, si se acepta el culto de la venta.

El proceso econômico que origina este fenômeno es más o menos reciente, empieze con el fonógrafo de operación manual y el Ford, modelo "T". La producción en masa, éstilo laisses finire, ya exigia la venta en masa; la "economía de abundancia" puede seguir desarrollándose solemente si el obrero de meyor sueldo está incluído entre los consumidores. Las mercancias se amontonan en los almacenes si el obrero no gasta cada semana todo su salario, y la venta en bonos tiene que absorber los centavos que la sobran después de los gastos dierios. La industria se ve forzada a dar un salario burgués a elgunes de los obreros y así el culto de la venta y el mito de la bonanza ganan otro neófito, ansioso tal vez, pero a pesár de todo un croyente. Hasta ahora, no se le ha ocurrido al obrero que cada día se pone él más burgués y que ha aceptado el culto cardinal del burgués sin saberlo. En la obre que estudiaremos a continuación millones de norteamericanos-agentes visjeros, burgueses, y no obreros-se ven a ellos mismos:

Al leer <u>Death of a Selesman</u>, la primera pregunta que se le ocurre al arítico del teatro social es: En estos días en en que el mito nortesmericano del <u>business</u> esta recibiendo

la más frenética y reaccionaria defensa ¿cómo puede Arthur Miller cortar impunemente la raíz principal del árbol mitológico nortesmericano? Pero después de estudiarla un poco más, se hace inteligible: la confusión dramática y de pensamiento en <u>Death M a Salesman</u> lo hace tolerable a los correligionarios del culto de la venta. Pero, la obra tiene gran fuerza y en verdad que, entre otras cosas, sorta de raíz el culto de la venta. La fuerza viene principalmente de la caracterización, aunque el tratamiento "poético" del autor contraría la crítica que intenta; en segundo lugar del diálogo. De menos fuerza es la acción, si pudiéramos llamarla así, que pertenece al tipo de "tema y variaciones."

La otra reacción espontánea sobreviene cuando el espectador ha salido del teatro. Sabe que ha visto una de las obras más potentes presentadas en los últimos años en los Estados Unidos, pero se pregunta: "Elen, y ahora ¿qué parará?" Y no encuentra respuesta alguna. La obra pronuncia un juicio de dura moral--lo que no equivale a decir que no sea petético--sobre Willy Lomax, pero no ofrece solución para los centenares de Willy Lomax que estaban sentaditos en la sala. Hay un rayito de esperanza si lo buscamos bien. Tal vez el hijo de Willy, Biff, no siga los pasos de su padre. Tal vez encuentre un trabajo útil. ¿Seguirá siendo un no-Willy, pero un holgazán? O bien, ¿le dará acaso el sistema económico opertunidad de realizar su utilidad?

Mi hay una solución o una esperansa en <u>Danth of a Sales</u> mon es pequeña e insignificante; la opacan elementos extrañes:

Con una confusión somejante se tropiesa en el análisis formal de la obra. EDE qué género es? Su autor la lisma tragedia, pero ai lo es, tonomos que definir, después de dar una ajeada a la páginas de Diderot, que pertenece a un género haste abora no aceptados la tragedia <u>matétida</u>. O bien, des una obra de protesta social? Si lo es, dista mucho de peseer la claridad y la enceión rebelde de <u>Vaiting for Jafiy</u>. do pertenece al género, abora muy de mode en el teatro nortesmericosno, de la obra retrospectiva y sontimental? Pero las obras de este género inecuo no tienen la protensión de cortar una raís importente del mito nortesmericome. Entences, équé?

La obra participa de todos estos gineros, de unos más, de otros menos, y revela la misma confusión que el pensemiente exitico del drumaturgo. Se trata de géneros, muevos todos, para Miller quien, en su obra previa, <u>All My Jong</u>, escribió un melodrama complicado con el subgenero de problema de caracter, Tenemos entonees un género muevo y un género mixto.

Desth of a Selemen esté dividide en des actos más une escena corta de requise. Toda la acción bourre en la casa de Willy Lomax exceptuende las escenas principio del segundo acte que se actua en unos <u>investe</u> dekante de la escenogiufía principal. Hay un certe spagén en el segundo para permitir ous el insei se levante afuera de la escena.

ACTO PRIMERO: Willy Lonex. el agent viajero, regrese del viais de negocios que menas había emerado esa mañanas poreue no pudo menejar más, y se salia a cada memento de la carretera. Linda, su esposa, le dice que el está demasiade cansado y demasiado viejo para continuar viajendo, que debería de pedirle a su patrón que lo traslade a Nueva York. Elles hablan de sus hijos. Happy y Biff. que están doraides en la recimera de arriba (tambiés visible para el suditorio). Villy está desilucionado de Biff porque ál no "ha hecho nada de af minne" avanue quande mine en la escuala había mide muy pepuler. Biff outere regramme a Tejas a per un ganadere. Willy se va a la cocina a tracr un sandwich y la luz se enciende en el cuerto de los muchachos. Estos han sido la plática de su padre y se insuistan de verie manejar tanto. Los dos estin indecises sobre lo que quieren hacer. Biff trata de inducir a Han para que se regrese a Tejas con él y Hap trata de que Biff entre en alguna clase de negocio con él. La escena page a Willy on Le cocine heblando consigo mismo imaginando que los muchachos (que sparecen con él en la escena) son 16venes stra vez. están limpiando su coche. felices de que haya regregado de su viaje de negocios. Linda sale al patie y elle y Willy hablen de sus muchas deudas, más grandes en cantidad que su selario semanal. Willy siente que es un fracase como agente finiero pero Lindo lo defiende:

Una mujer gagarece, vagamente vista, vistiéndose ante un

espejo imaginario. Willy le dice que regresará dentro de dos semenas y le pide una dita para entences. Ella desaparece en la ebsouridad y Linda y Willy continuan hablando. Happy baja en pijemas cuendo el tiempo otra ves se hace "pregente" y le pregunta a su padre por qué ha regresado de su viaje. Charley, el vecino, entra a la coche y Happy se regresa a la coma. Charley y Willy unpiesen a jugar a las cartas.

Willy expisse hablar a su hermane Ding guien entences amerge de la obscuridad. y repiten una convergación de hace alles cuando Ben trataba de convencer a Willy de que fuera con el a Alaska. Willy llega a considerar como el mayor error de su vide el no haber ide. Charley se va indignade perque Willy no está poniendo atención a sus barnias y está hablando con Ben que se murió haos dos semenas. Linda sparece en canisón y beta para preguntar a Willy si no está listo para irse a la cama pero 67 se sale en chancias a dar un passe y Biff baia a la cocina a hablar a su madre acerca de Willy. Ella le remila por haterse cilose a su padre y le pida que se quede en is case y see bondedoso con Willy. Happy llege y elles se enteran de que Willy ya no percibe más un sueldo fijo, sélo una conisión, después de 16 sites en su trabaje. Riff dice que se quedará en la ciudad aunque la odia. Linda les dice a sus hijes tembién que Willy esté tratande de matarse. Biff prenote que irá con su antigue patrén a la mañana siguiente, para tratar de conseguir dinere prestade para que él y Happy

puedan hacer negocios. Willy se va a la cama feliz y la escena se ciera cuando Biff cogo de debajo del calentador la mangera de goma que Willy ha puesto allí para conectarla a un surtidor de gas.

ACTO SEGUNDO: El dia siguiente. Willy, lleno de esperanza hacia Biff que la ide a pedir dinero a su antique patrón. va con su patrón para pedirle que le sea permitido trabajar en Nueve York en ves de viajar por su territorio de Nueva Inglaterra. Les muchaches y Willy se van a juntar en la noche para la cona. La entrevista de Willy con Howard Wagner ca desentrosat sin imbarge, se le aconseja que deje de vender per completo durante un tiempo y que se tome un descanso. Otre ves Ben aparece hablandole a Willy de Alaska pero Linda dice que a él le va muy bien en su trebaje. Le imaginación de Willy tembién le hace retroceder al día de un importante compeonato en el cual Biff jugé cuando era un hérce del futbell emericano. Después la escena se traslada a la oficina de Charley dende Willy otra ves se ve obligade a ir a pedir dinere prestado, Charley otra vez, como lo ha hecho varias veces en el pasado, le ofrece un trabajo pero Willy lo rehusa aunque acaba de perder su trabajo, Willy habla con Bernard-emige de la juventud de Biff que había tratado de ayudar a éste con sus estudios y que es ahora un abogede fanoso-para tratar de averiguar por qué Biff habia fallado, por qué él habia perdido todo interés en seguir adelante después de que reprobó ma-

tomáticas y no pudo entrar en la universidad. Bernard le progunta a Willy qué le pasé a Biff ese verene cuando fué a Bostom a ver a su padre, pues desde ese tiompe en adelante Biff había perdido la peles. Willy está muy resentido por la progunta y no responde.

Le signiente essens tiene lugar en el restaurante donde Riff, Hep y Willy yan a comer. Biff quenta a Hep como ha pasado el día, edmo ha esperado seis horas para ver a Oliver quien ni siguiera se acerdalla de Biff. Biff se da cuenta de todas las falmas ideas todante a él que su femilia ha tenide. Recenece que él numes había trabéjado para Cliver excepto cono empleado de embarque, y que había side despectido por haber robade algunes bienes. Biff está desidide a decirie a Willy la verdad acerca de la clase de hombre que sabe que es pero quando Willy llega, empiesa a mantener su propia versión de la que él erve debe haberle pasado a Biff. hasta que Biff finalmente dice que tiene una cita para el lunch con Cliver al dia siguiante. Algunas muchachas que Hap ha recogido se unes al grupo en la mesa y tratan de convencer a Willy de ene se quede pero él se ve preguntando dénde enté el lavamanos cuando ave la voz de la mujer de Boston, fuera del esconario. Biff, Hep y las muchashas se van mientras Biff le ruega a Hay que haga algo per su padre. La mujer entre. Willy siguiendels, y la escena es squella que Biff enéontré cuando fué dios strás a ver a su padre a Mieva Inglaterra después de

que reprobé matemáticas. Riff está llemende a la puertas dando fuertes gelpes, así es que Willy finelmente manda a la mujer al cuarto de baño y abre. Quando ella sale mientras Biff está allí. Willy inventa diversas historias para evalicar su presencia alli pero Biff se da cuenta de que su padre, a quien él había suado y respetado, es un mentireso. La escena se desvances y da pase al mesero en el restaurante que apura a Filly a irse a casa, y la siguiente escena tiene lugar etra vez en la cocine donde Linda ordena a los muchachos que se marchen porque elles han abandonado a su padre en el restaurante. Biff quiere hablarle a Willy y pregunta donde está: Está fuera en el jardín plentendo semillas-aunque es de nocho-cosa que había planeade hacer en la mañana cuando se sentia tan entimiste. Otra vez Willy está hablándele a Ben. hablándele de sus 20.000 délares de pélise de segure de vide e imaginando el gran funeral quando as hijos vean cuántos amigos tenia y qué henhre habia sido. Biff sale a decirle adiés a su padre, queriando hacerlo de un mode anistese pero Villy insiste en que Biff ha arruinado su propia vida por rencor hacia su padre, Biff trata de hacerie cir la verdad de lo que ambes son;

"No valgo un real y th tem poco... Yo no soy nada, popá. illo puedes comprender eso? No hay ya mingin reactr en allo. Selo soy lo que soy, eso es todo....iquieres tomar ese suello absurdo y quemario antes de que algo pase?"

Biff se va a su cuarto diciendo que se irá en la meñama dejando a su padre perplejo de ver que Biff lo quiere. Linda le ruega a Willy que entre a acostarse, pero él se queda fuera

hablando con Bon, hasta que de repente se da cuenta de que está selo. Trata de calmar a Linda cuendo ella le llema y todes los sonidos abalanzándose sobre él hasta que se va corriendo. Linda y sus hijos eyem arranear el carro y marcharse. El acto se cierra cuando Hay y Biff.se ponen sus sacos y Linda en ropa de luto, se adelante con un remo de rosas a hincarse junto a una tumba.

ESCENA DE REQUIRME Linda mire fijamente la tumba impedbilitada de entender le que pasa mientras sus hijes y Charley tratan de haceria marchan. Ella habla de le muche que le gustaba a Willy construir cosage "Tu mbes, Charley, hay mis de él en ese escalinate (que construy6) que en todas las ventas que hise, " "Sie" dice Charley, "era un houbre felis con un costal de comenta," Biff dice, "El tenía succes equivocados...munca supe quién era." Otra ves le pide a Happy que se vaya con él pero Hap ha decidide que darme en la ciudad para enderesar la situación, para justificar el succe de Willy. "El tuvo un buen succe. Es el único succe que une puede tener-legar a ser el hombre número une," Linda todavía ne puede comprender por qué ese día había pagado el filtimo page de la ense, "T no habrá mádie en casa."

El movimiento se base en un contraste de dos <u>termes</u>. Las escenas en que aparece la familia completa en el presente, son de un <u>terme</u> lento; más vivas son las escenas interesladas del dinámico hermano Ben y del pamado de los hijos de

Willy en su miñez. El movimiento de la escena culminante, en el restaurante y después le intercalada del hotel en Beston, es más vielenta; el <u>tesmo</u> es rápide y acalerado por la introducción del elemento saxual. En el resto de la obra la desémimación de les ys reconsjes concuerda con un seutimiente saxual no comprendido; la escasa protesta de Willy se expresa en términes de debilidad y sexo. Los rituos son contrastedes y variados. El principal es a base de retardación de la acción y altermación del presente con el pasado, lo que presta una tensión interior a casi toda la obra. Esta tensión marce "la fuerza silenciosa insta"²⁸ de que habla Mathan, pore el oritico/équivoca suando dies en etra parte, "aunque... la forma básica...desorganizada, es suceptible de producir un efecto de tensión, los espectadores tienen poeo sentide de esa tensión "²⁹

La tensión resulta del heché de que la obra tione tres lineas de acción. La interior está muy bien equilibrada con les dos exteriores del pasado y del presente. La linea interior es la revelación para Biff-y para el público-de la falsedad de los valores acatados por Willy, y en esta liñea están presentes las emociones más fuertes, introvertidas, de la obra. En oposición, encontramos la falsa extroversión de la vida cotidiana de Willy. La otra linea exterior de la acción es la del pasado, y sirve tembién para revelar la falsedad del presente, pero sin caracteres de introversión. De esta reve-

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lación porticipa el público pero munca Willy. Nathan dise que la obra "toca estos detalles ordinarios con un sentido de profundo y piadoso reconocimiento. "30

La estructura central, como ocurre con la mayoria de las obras nortesmericanas contemperáneas, es la de la retrospesción, y quisá ses ésta la fuente de su confusión dramática. También es "ilustrative" en el sentido negativo que Lawson presta al término, porque las acciones no nacen orgénicamente de las anteriores. La decisión de silly es clara ya el finel del primer acto, pero se ve retardada durante todo el segundo acto sin que establesca ningún "nuevo equilibrio," según Lawson.

La acción³¹ puede contenerse en la proposición de Price, si dance por sentado que se trata de una tragedia, aunque no 16 6s. y que filly 68 el protagonista de la obra:

A. Villy, rechasado domo agente viajero, puede escogor un rumbo nuevo o morir.

B. Willy busce diverses justificaciones pera su vide actual, y otra más ante sus hijos, sin medificar el curse de su vide.

C. Después de saber que no encontrará justificación ante su hijos, silly sabe tembién que le smar, y decide sacrificarse para darles lo únice que puede-los 20,000 délares de su póliza de seguro de vida.

Pero a pesar de las supesiciones en al sentido de que la ebra es una tragedia y de que Willy es su "héros," la proposición no resulta muy lógica y, peor aún, no señala con claridad la verdadera acción de la obra. El que esto escribe piense que es imposible que la acción se contenga en la proposición

En lo que se refiere al ambiente de la obra lo que merece la primera mención es el decorado y la iluminación de Jo Mielziner, verdadero tour de force de teatro. A tal grado, que sobrevino una reacción de los críticos contra la "iluminación lóbrega" de Mielziner después de que en este caso llevó a la cumbre un estilo que había cultivado varios años. El decorada es todo transparente, al extremo de que podríamos decir casi no exista. Las indicaciones del dramaturgo exigen que la casa de Willy tenga tres piezas y un patio exterior que puedan usarse simultáneamente, y además, que las paredes para las escenas del presente sean visibles, en tanto que para las escenas del pasado los personajes pueden pasar libremente al través de las paredes. Y este milagro técnico lo realizó Mielziner, realizando otro a la vez, que el público no se viera distraído de la acción por el primer milagro técnico que, por medios introvertidos produce un sentimiento destinado a crear el ambiente falsamente extrovertido del culto de venta, y de Willy. Es un ambiente que opera sobre la acción, para der al último parlamente de Linda un sentido trágico y profundo. "Willy, pagué hoy el último abono de la casa. Hoy, querido, y no habrá nadie en casa...*32

Otro efecto interesante es el del fondo musical particular para marcar la entrada de varios personajes y subrayar su participación en la acción. Tabién la casa se cubre de hojas

> PELLO PLCIDA HE CIDA MENICC 2/4

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secas en dos consiones para completar el sentimiento de lo respectivo.

Al hablar de los personajes courre inmediatemente la pregunta: iEs Willy trágico o patótico?; pero dejamos la respueste para el exemen ulterior de si es tragedia o no la obra, porque la cuestión de la tragedia está integralmente ligada com la cuestión del héroe trágico. Lo evidente es que Willy es un personaje prefundo, complejo y combiante, a pesar de que no se reconces a sí come le reconce el público. La misma redondes caracterima a lánda y Biff, y los dos poseen tanto esler humane come Willy J e asaso más. Henes redondos son Happy, Charley y Bernard, personajes megatives, pero presentados objetivamente y en virtud de que sus decisiones no alteran la acción, según el criterio de Lamson, resultan más bien tipos trasados a dos dimensiones.

Los personajes pueden dividires en tres grupes: (1) Milly; Linda, que per smarie, no puede apreciar su auto-engañe; y el hijo Happy, que dice en su último parlamento: "Su suedo era bueno. Es el único que puede uno sofiar-ser el hombre numero uno. Aqui luchó por él, y aqui lo ganaré par él."³³ (2) Riff, que ve la falsedad del sentido de valores de su padre, pero ne puede abrirse pase por si mismo; (3) Charley y su hije Bernard, que se abren paso en los negocios sin caer en la trampa de creer en el mito "tener éxito porque se es querido" que empresa Willy: "No es la que hace uno, Ben. Es a quiémes comoes uno y la sourisa que lleva en el rostro...Esa es la mars-

villa, la maravilla de este país, que un hombre puede llegar al fin de su vida con brillantes aquí, solamente sobre la base de ser querido. *34 Ben representa en parte la misma actitud, pero cínicamente, y es un símbolo anacrónico y evidente de los robber barons norteamericanos del siglo pasado.

El estilo de la obra se señala por la fuerza, la tensión interna, la "reticencia"³⁵ y la "falta de pretensiones"³⁶ del dramaturgo. Está hecho sobre la base de une ilusión que no entre en conflicto con las convenciones escenográficas, entre ellas las convenciones radicales del tiempo, reminiscentes de la pintura futurista en su multiplicidad. No es más que parcialmente simbolista por la razón que hemos discutido antes: que las obras que contienen símbolos particulares y fuertes no pueden llegar a ser símbolos integreles. Las obras que contienen partes simbélicas vehementes son las expresionistas, no las simbolistas. 37 No hay gran contradicción en que Miller hava mezclado los sub-estilos expresionista y simbolista porcue los dos son románticos, o cuando menos no están menos unificados que los géneros mezclados de la obra. Miller ha trabajado en diversos estilos. En <u>All My Sons</u> escribió una obra roméntica de "problema" dentro del subestilo naturalista.

El lenguaje de <u>Death of a Salesman</u> es adecuado a la obra si pasamos por alto las pretensiones de tragedia. "La manera de describir es sencilla^{#38} dice Nathan. El diájogo parece natural en los personajes, salvo en una media docena de

"parlamentos de tesis" y el parlamento lírico sobre "una sonrisa y el brillo de los zapatos" y abunda en el sabor del habla de los grupos burgueses, semi-proletarizados, de Nueva York.

Si Bentley habla de la prosa cuando la llama "una manera retórica falsa del habla oído solamente en Broadway, en las películas, y en los discursos radiofónicos y políticos"³⁹ seguramente ha olvidado hasta qué grado el habla del culto de la venta está formado por Broadway, las películas, el radio y los discursos políticos. La prosa es natural al burgués de Nueva York. Si Bentley está llamando "retórica falsa" a la poesia de la obra, tiene una tesis más firme, la cual sostiene mejor en otra parte del mismo artículo:

It is interesting that critics who have never shown any love for poetry praise "Salesman" as a great poetic drama. The poetry they like is bad poetry, the kind that sounds big and sad and soul-searing when heard for the first time and spoken very quickly within a situation that has already generated a good deal of emotion. I think it was Paul Muni who made the classic comment that in this play you can't tell where the prose leaves off and the poetry begins. You can tell, though, that the prose is relatively satisfactory, the poetry ham; mere rhetorical phrasing, as witness any of the longer speeches. Indeed, this kind of poetry contributes very liberally to that blurring of lines which enables Mr. Miller to write a social drama and a gragedy at the same time and thus please all. 40

El empleo por Miller de una especie "Hollywood" de poesía es probablemente intencional como medida en su intento de glorificar al vendador nortesmericano, un intento que se discutirá junto con sus pretenciones de tragedia. Bathan critica a

Willy por "tantos gritos, "41 pero esto es uno de los poces erreres de la dirección escénica más bien que del texto. Bentley alabra a Lee Cobb per su "sólida representación, bastente fuerte para sostener cualquier obra...la vindicación triunfamte del método del <u>Group.</u> #42

Es una obra para las tablas, no para la lectura, y Elia Kazan le imprimió una dirección que aproveche plenemente la escenografía de Mielziner y demostró que él es el igual de sus maestros Clumean y Strasberg. Ha podido combinar sus métodos con la velocida y <u>timing</u> de una comedia de Al Voed, y la ebra resultante es puro teatro, teatro magnífico. Las últimas noticias que tiene el que escribe este son que <u>Salesmen</u> ha podido continuar en octubre de 1950, en Mueva York, la temporada que inició el 10 de febrero de 1949.

El impacto emotivo procede principalmente de la caracterización, de la "verdad" de los personajes y del reconocimiento que encuentran en el público, a pesar de que Nathan opina que "el efecto final es el de una depresión mental más o menes fuerte."⁴³ Remedia esto en parte "la honestidad inflexible de sus emociones" ⁴⁴ y la esperanza en los valores latentes en el hijo Riff. El segundo impacto procede del diálogo, que es muy rico pero no poético fuera de uno e dos pasajes. La acción, del tipo de "tema y variaciones," no comunica gran emoción en comparación con la que producenta caracterización y el diálogo.

La pretensión de Miller de haber escrito una tragedia,

dándonos además un resumen de su "estética" merece examen. De su articulo publicado en el <u>New York Times</u>, y reproducido en los programas de las representaciones de <u>Death of a Sales</u>man, seleccionamos algunas frases que sintesizan le idea de la "tragedia nueva" que profesa este autor:

... tragic feeling is evoked in us when we are in the presence of a character who is ready to lay down his life if need be, to secure one thing-his sense of personal dignity ... The flaw, or crack in the character, is really his inherent unwillingness to remain passive in the face of what he conceives to be a challenge to his dignity, his image of his rightful status... from this total onslaught by an individual against the seemingly stable cosmos surrounding us-from this total examination of the "unchangeable" environment--comes the terror and fear that is classically associated with tragedy ... Now if it is true that tragedy is the consequence of a man's total compulsion to evaluate himself justly, his destruction in the attempted posts a wrong or an evil in his environment. And this is precisely the morality of tragedy and its lesson ... The thrust for freedom is the quality in tragedy which exalts. The revolutionary questioning of the stable environment is what terrifies ... and if this struggle must be total and without reservation, then it automatically demonstrates the indestruetible will of man to achieve his humanity ... The possibility of victory must be there in tragedy.

Vemos por las primeras cuatro frases que todo se basa aquí en una lucha del hombre: el sentimiento trágico, el punto débil del personaje que ocasione su caída, el terror y el miedo, y la moraleja de la tragedia. Esta lucha también, en la última frase, "muestra la voluntad indestructible...y la posibilidad de la victoria." Además de la lucha, tenemos en la penúltima frase "la libertad...que exalta" y "la duda revolucionaria...que espanta."

Aší pues, en síntesis, la definición que Miller hace de /84 la tragedia es la de una lucha revolucionaria per la libertad. Esta definición puede aplicarse a <u>Eniting far Lafty y</u> a <u>Ent the Dead mejor que a Death of a Salasman</u>, perque los protagonistas de aquellas dos obras están enfrentados a una lucha mayor que la de Willy. Pero, a pesar de todo, ninguna de las tres es tragedia, y la definición de Miller conviene perfectamente a las obras revolucionarias de protesta social, pero no a la tragedia.

Sólo que esto nos lleva a la "lucha" de Willy, "¿Es Willy un hérce trágico o simplemente un personaje patético?" Sorá mejor citar etro pasaje de la "estética" de Miller;

The possibility of victory must be there in tragedy, where pathos rules, where pathos is finally derived, a character has fought a battle he could not possibly have won. The pathetic is achieved when the protogonist is, by virtue of his witlessness, his insensitivity, or the very sir he gives off, incepable of grappling with a much superior force,

Por la definición misma de Miller, Willy resulta en opinión del que este escribe, un protagonista patético y no trágico. Otra prueba de que <u>Death of a Inlesnon</u> no es tragedias le falta el protagonista trágico. En final de cuentas, poco importa si la obra es e no una tragedias seguremente es una buena obra de protesta social. El orítico que quiera prolomgar la controversia sobre "le trágiéo" puede empesar per Aris-

totales y terminar por el artícule de Bodolfo Usigli en el mémore cuatro de 1950 de <u>Candernos Americanos</u>. También si le alcanza el tiempo: hay varios contenaros de "filósofos" de la

estética idealista entre los dos autores moncionades;

No investigaremos más en la historia del teatro el génere minte de la obra yaque los tres géneros han side previemente analizados en este estudio, igual que al estile expresionista; paro dejaremos una pregunta, que Unigli toca en su articule publicado en <u>Hernéndes</u> del 8 de estubre de 1950; "EEs apropiado al género de la tragedia el estile expresionista?" Tenemos que estar de acuerdo-pienen el que esto escribe--que no le es.

Entre los elementos simbélieses aquí presentes, los primcipales son: Ben, ya analizado antes, y Miff. Este representa la esperanza de la obra; es el atomentado; simbliza el único escape fuera del"ambiente injuste y malo " de su padre. Todos sus "impulses hacia la libertad" se han viste frustrados a pesar de sus "dudas revolucionarias" sobre los valores de Willy. Impersona la rebalión pero no nos ofrece selución alguna, 4De qué, es símbelo entences? Es símbelo de una solución negativa que no exige una sela acción positiva, y este sugiere el principal error de <u>Dasth of a Salasuan</u>. Aqué haré el público entera? «Fundar un asile pera los patéticos Willys, e bien lanzarios a todos al suicidio? «Dar un emplee productive a los Miffs atomentados, o mandarios a todos a la Tejas mítica y Chateaubrianesca de los "nobles selvages"?

De mayor provecho será citar el parlemento simbólico que encierra la texis, líricomente expresada, de la obra y

y compararilo a sus antecedentes:

CHARLEY... To Riff: Nobedy dust blane this man. You don't understand; Willy was a salesman. And for a salesman, there is no rock bottom to the life. He don't put a belt to a mut, he don't tell you the law or give medicine. He's a man way out there in the blue, riding on a suite and a shoeshine. And when they start not smiling back---that's an earthquake. And then you get yourself a couple of spots on your hat, and you're finished. Nobedy dast blame this man. A salesman is got to dream, bey. It comes with the territory.

Podenos comparar esto a la estrofa final de un poema de

Carl Sandburg que tione por titulo The Lowvers Know Too Muchs

The work of a bricklayer goes to the blue. The knack of a mason outlasts a moon. The hands of a plasterer hold a room together, The land of a farmer wishes him back again. Singers of songs and dreamers of plays Builde a house no wind blows over. The langers-tell me why a hearse horse snickers hauling a langer's bones.

Hey custro principales significades literales: tres negativos y uno positivo. Los negativos son (1) la falsedad del culte de la venta, "valores falsos y enguño de si,"⁴⁶ (2) "ser querido" ya no basta entre los que profesan el culto de la venta. (3) la selva de donde sale tío Ben con sus dismantes es precisamente el lugar indicado para él y sus anacrémicos compañeros entre los <u>pusand individualiza</u>. Los tres puntos han sido examinados ya. Nathan manciona otras carapterísticas negativas de menor importancias

And the point of view throughout, in its challenge of popular conceptions, is strikingly intelligent. The popular credes that nothing is more valuable to a man then being liked; that sincere, hard work is bound to reap its ultimate reward; that children, even if they conseal the fact, have an inborn love for their parents; that loyalty is always a virtue; and that only the incompotent fail in this world--such beliefs, with no show of facile synicism, Miller punctures. 47

El punte positivo, el del valor del trabajo manual, merece más emplia examen. Aparece en muchos de los parlamentos de tesis:

A man who can't handle tools is not a man. You're disgusting.

I don't onre what they think! They've laughed at Dad for years, and you know why? Because we don't belong in this nuthouse of a city! We should be mixing coment on some open plain, er-or carpenters. A carpenter is allowed to whistle, 49

'Cause I got so many fine tools, all I'd need would be a little lumber and some peace of mind, 50

There were a lot of nice days. When he'd come home from a trip; or on Sundays, making the stoop; finishing the cellar; putting on the new perch; when he built the extra bathroom; and put up the garage. You know something, there's more of him in that front stoop than in all the cales he ever made.

En el textre norteamericano, el antededente directo de esta exaltación del trabajo manual se encuentra en etra obra drumática: <u>The World We Nake</u> (1939), adaptada de <u>The Ontward</u> <u>Boom</u> de Millen Brand. Se refiere a una enferma mental que se emespa del hospital y resuelve sus dificultades peleelógicas por medie del trabajo en una lavandería y por el sor de uno de los obreros de la planta.

El juicio moral de la obra recas en Willy y el ambiente que le produje y en el cual él cree falsamente. Es un juicie dure y despiséado a pesar de "le patétice" del personaje.

La condenación de la falsedad del culto de la venta corresponde a un sentimiente común a muchos artistas y escritores nortesmericanes del periode situado entre las des guerras mandialos. Entre ellos figuren Carl Sendburg y Sinclair Levis. y los "desterrados voluntarios" de 1920 a 1930. Pero no fueron muchos hasta terminada la segunda guerra, cuando se deió sentir una gran reacción popular entre los veteranos en contra de la vida limitada a la venta. El programa de ayuda y becas a los veterenos dió a muchos de ellos coortunidad de abandonar sus proyectos previos y su educación orientados hacia la grande y rica industria de la propaganda. E otras semejantes. para abrir un nuevo comino. Es un grupo singular el que comstituye este ejércite de veteranes estudiantes que siguen runbos variados y curiosos: pero su característica general es la repulsión del culto de la vente. Entre ellos estén los que quieren aprender oficies de artesane, les estetas que siguen el runho del arte por el arte, los aristócratas homosexueles. los futuras profesores universitarios. los "escanistas." los que buscen une "culture" en el extremiero para después llevarla como misioneros a su selvaje país. los dilettenti. los futuros escritores, artistas y reformadores sociales de los Estados Unidos. Son, por ahora, grandes signos de interrogación; terminen apenas sus estudios. Pero lo seguro es que no venden neder squellos que quisieron vender regreseron muy pronto del servicio a los mostradores y los muestraries que les escere-

ban y llemeban. Miller, aunque no fué seldade, vivié entre ellos a fin de reunir materiales para su reportaje <u>Situation</u> <u>Hermal</u> y la película <u>G.I.Jon</u>, y cepté muches de los sentimientes más profundos de los seldados-ciudadanes, y seguremente su protesta contra la vida de la venta fué más influida por los ciudadanes-veteranes que por los escritores de la anterior generación.

Miller ha side simpre inquierdista en su vida de eseritor, pero su penseniento social es señala más bien los sentimientos <u>concrelizados</u> que por la observación lócica y consistente. No ha reconcentrado su fuegos su atención a "le del memente" y su tondoncia lívica e idealista han restado fuerza social a mis obras. Husta abora mi método ha sido más ecléotico que radical, y sus escritos muestran más talento que comvicción. No nos impresiona aprender que Miller pasó dos sãos y medio como almacenista para juntar el dinero a fin de entrar en la Universidad de Michigan, Después de recibirse en 1938 se agregé al Federal Theatre durante un período breve hasta que se suprimié tal teatro. Luego escribié obras dumáticos especialmente para la radio, cuentos, un libro de repertaje y en 1945 une novela acerca del anti-semitiano, Facus. Desde ontonces (una obra teatral en 1944. The Man Who Had All the Inch. no tuvo éxito en Braadway), Miller ha escrito casi esclusivesente para el teatro y tiene varias obres que no se hen representado. A pesar de que ha escrite obras comisionadas

yor las des impertantes organisaciones nacionales de obreros, y su dedieación de "unas semanas cada alle" a un trabajo manual para agregarse a la lista que nos da Chapman, ⁵² Miller no parece tener una conexion verdadora con la vida de obrero que nos efrece como alternative al subte de la venta en <u>Death ef</u> <u>A Saleman</u>. Su selución, y hasta cierto grado Miller mismo, que da una teoría y guisá no más que un sentimiento.

T-and

La imperiancia de àsta chra desde su estrene en 1949, ha side grande desde al punte de vista del <u>aria ientrals</u> pero su influencia como protesta social es menor. Continua en las teblas en Nueva York sin que haya indicio algune de que será retirado pronto. Obtuve los prunies Pulitser, Criticas Cirele, Antoinette Perry, Theatre Club, y "Front Page" para la temporada de 1949. Los dos primeros son los más importantes en los Estados Unidos.

La obra es tipicamente norteamericana en su contenido, y tal vez pudiórenes decir tembién que es tipica en su confusión. A todas luces no es una obra universal, ni le será hasta el dia en que el culto de la venta sea universalmente acoptado--cosa improbable ya que la lucha social opera sobre otras bases en casi todo el mundo, dPuede tener <u>Desth ef a</u> Salusman gran significación en México? Probablemente no, fuera del reducido público espitalino. Pese a ciertas sintemas superficiales como las organizacionas de Leones, Rotarios,

tione en realidad gran número de adeptos en México;

No obstante su confusión, la protesta implicita en <u>Destin</u> at a Salasmen resulta más oficas que la de <u>All My Song⁵³ cre-</u> cias a su superioridad artística. Pero la mayoría de sus virtudos se encuentran en su forma testral, no en la que dice; es excelente testro, no es drama. Guando la forma sobrepasa completamente al contenido, no hay posibilidad de considerar <u>Desth af a Salasmen como una obra equilibrada que podría llo-</u> gar a ser una de las medidas en la historia del testro.

Sin embargo la obra es may buena y la pregunta persistente vuelve insistiende équé hubiera pasado si Miller hubiepa dirigido todas sus fuerras a cortar la reis principal del mite nortesmericane, en vez de cortar meramente el follaje de éste y el de otres mites que tanto tiempo han prescupado la mentalidad orteduma?" Ah, squelle hubiera sido <u>algo</u>-algo que probablemente hubiera pueste el nombre de Arthur Miller sobre la esrítula del mejor drama nortesmericano, Como dice es sintético, pero no tan sintéstico, Alfredo Segre, "Arriesgé um obre meestra."

1. Gagers and 112 pollin.

2. Connde mencioné a un suige que trabaja en el tratare Las deres de protesta que ibe re articiande, ne presente des mens rasis, "Erer qué ne las angle Caldar" Ira la primer protecta drumática en las Estados Unidos que ture un contemple a la vez importante y disculido per todas partes, pero su forma no es si drumática si emportable a la serma de las giote elevas aqui estudiadas. Inte adartestin de nevela se súa cometente que drumática, ente se puede ver en al "pre-

ACT Is Reversor of Dale Ten's Gabin on Shelber's Electricity Marro Gelebration, Chorne, "Mign in de Guadials" Entrate President In es Inneetnes Provents of Slave Dalers on hand, Course, Ouns then to the Enerth the Mother's Appeals Cortains of Nerma (Elisa); Interior of Dale Son's Cabins Eldnight Record Son Colors on from his Gabin; Storth of the Traderst Minstellows Moens from his Gabin; Storth of the Traderst Minstellows Motops of Norma and her Galis, Charles Engraves in Magnets Reps Affecting Tablent.

LASE II: Family Real tements Just Acceptentings Cais River Frence every Same Stand Flight of Merne and Lase childs Parault of Readeres Despective Researce and Research of Research an Floring Intel Research Research and Research fore of Grany Rest Chest of Mennets Research a Spectrostions Despective Recommist of Mennet and Sundary on the Relation Fall of Springer down the Research Shederth Research Chester The Darking New the Court's Newbilly of Research and Research Enters of Restinger down the Resting of Research and Research Sector Strategy Rest Research

ACT XIT: Howinide Inte Advertisement Schrandinery; the Slave Aperticular Interference Manual and Slave Deleves Interposition of Going Mags Analysi from the Next Indias: Slapelar Blacovery: Metmode Nells Mercanition of Loss School School Schwart of Some the Log Cable in its Fride; Freedom of Schwart and Notes abt.

Los típilos de des obres de la primera década del sigle

astual se han mencionade en las listas de las primeras ebras marteamericanas de protestas The Einshing Hour de Angustus Themas, y The Great Divide de Villiam Vaughan Hoody. La primera descuere, en el primer acte, que la casa de juego de "desk" en la ciudad de louisville ha beneficiade de la protección de la pelicia y de los jueces, y en los actes siguiantes se dein de lado el asunto para pesar a tratar de los femenenes palguies más fantasticos. La segunda ebra, escrita per un desacturge major conocido como poeta, es una pieza seria de existan secial pero es demasiade general para peder llamarie protesta: la más mien una obra que critica la ortedoxia en favor de la heterodoxia, como las de Shany segun Heury I, Manchen, Gamma Jarmard Shay His Flarg. (Doston and Londons John V, Lace and Generaly, 1903).

Ro tonomes más elternativa que aceptar aria la Gine come la primera obra nortesmericana de protesta que tore en escalede formal artistico y, después, Ina Adding Machine come la primera protesta importante que spañeris en el textre comercial de Bradenzy. Naturalmente, tales "primeras" misiadas no comstituyen un movimiente textuals el active texture de protesta merial no comenné hasta la crimie seconémico de la cuerta deesta del siste.

J. Geory, on edt. p.1.52.

4. Lucheig Lowische. "Creative Treave Mr. Miss's Mr. Add ing Machine" on Montress J. Mouns and John Mason Brown, M. Martine Theatre as Saon by its Gritics 1752-1914. (New Yorks to Berton and Company. e1914), yp.1968.

5. La moscelanza de los estilos en <u>The Adding Machine</u> produce parecida confusión entre los estiloss acerta de su ginero, Sobel, <u>en</u>, <u>sit</u>, sebrepasa a todos que cologne per la vigión errence cualdo la llama una "Entresis-tragedia," puja

6. El primer cicle de <u>The Adding Machine</u> corresponde a La octuva situación de Polti, la Pobalión, pero el angundo y tercero no corresponden a mingume de que 16 situaciones. Podelenos inventor dos situaciones seplementariase pero el sogundo ciclo, el rechero, y la condensation pero el tercero:

7. "Elner Bice is loss at hem in the fantany them.in the earlier, more realistic scenes..." Gepty, on, oit. 70.156

6. Genener, Hauters of the Dound. pp. 485a.

9. Genery, on, oli, p.150.

10. Lo que parece confusión entre los críticos tecante a

Las formes emploades en el expresionismo, resulte de la perbrema de sus demonipalmes y la falte de seperer la forme de contenide en sus amblinie. Les elementes formeles se preden recept une per une ou las inteligentes pare limitades direct sience de Genelik, Gesser, Barrett H. Clark, Boynhard Manbeid y Urigli. Il fin el cual fueren divigiéne lus formeres pare no le que crem-se encountre major en la generalización de leuische, en gilt, p.196: la via interior objetivade. La vide exterior distribuinde. La mantre més antisfesteria de sencourse el probleme es printre concear el contenido y a partir de éste estudiar las formes en las obres mismest pere se prese de la maintre de printre concear el contenido y a partir de éste estudiar las formes en las obres mismest pere se prese divers de la catactura. Ha composition generalizade, repare de sus amaleria con las artes plantices encies pere medio de una amalería con las artes plantices encies de preses, Su inferior, George Gross, se debe selector pere se conceite directe con las contentes laceles que present pare encies directes con las antistations que present prese, Su inferior, George Gross, se debe selector pere se conceite directe con las antistantes laceles que present peressention directe con las antistantes laceles que presentent el supresionismo glamén en el tentre.

11. Boutley, the Maynelaht of Minhor y. 261.

12. Soute del Zoenlain Sone Desk. (New York: Mind and fair, e1948), y. 6.

13. Gorolik, pp. sit. 19.2514.

14. Generer, Manhara of the Drive, p. 489.

15. Gerelik, an git y, 252.

16. George Green, à Little Ten and a Mir Mes the Subst-Managempley of George Contra, 211 Martin of a stringer, (Mar Tents The Dial Press, 1946).

17. George Howedith. An Rhomer on Consider and the sector of the Conte Bullin. (Lenden) Constants and Converse 1985). No.49-56, 624. 69. 7 86-48 constants of additions of teacher y al. minimum de reverses.

18. Deutley, the Margariaht on Phinkers, poly.

15. Sen employees and a grant parte he polynomia. Jarbenes a los goldannes andre emplose que employees los margine margine de las quales los mis poderiens ende receppana y provenidas por el males de enne. Las frances de temp pana y provenidas y consular de enne. Las frances de temp de modem paro es potemais, destrictive es ten grande com de modem paro es potemais, destrictive es ten grande com de modem paro es potemais, destrictive es ten grande com de modem paro es potemais, destrictive es ten grande com de modem paro es potemais, destrictive es ten grande com de modem paro es potemais, destrictive es ten grande com de modem paro es potemais, destrictive es ten grande com de modem paro es potemais, destrictives (se ten grande com de modem paro es potemais, destrictives (se ten grande com de modem paro es potemais, de sector ten es ten grande com de potemais, comparis, de sector potemais, de sector de potemais de potemais, de sector y complea (y tides) del tra contro de una sociedad destituída. Queda por ver si los gobiermos, con su actual control directo del capital y las energías más considerables para el future del mundo, repetiran e no las locuras de sus predeseseres. La esperansa es más razonable que numes el peligro, también. Aguila, perdemos todos: sol, ganamos todos.

20. Una notable exception reciente: Gilbert Seldes, The Great Audience. (New York: Viking, 1950).

21. Masr Rice, "The Adding Machine" on The Theatra Guild Anthology. (New York: Random House, al 936). p. 269.

22. Upton Sinclair, The Brass Check: a Study of American Journalism. (Pasadeon, California: Editedo por el sutor. 1920).

23. Gager, <u>op. e11.</u> p.149.

24. Lealie Stephen, Swift, (London, Magmillan and Compeny, 186., 1927). p.209. "He was buried in St. Patrick's Gathedral, and over his grave was placed an epiteph, containing the last of these terrible phrases which aling to our memery phenover his name is montioned. . Swift lies, in his com words-

> Upi saeva indignatio Cor ultorius lacerare neguit. *

25. Gagey, op. cit. p.151.

26. Lewisshn, en Moses and Brown, on, cit. p.195.

27. Brooks Atkinson, "Of Thes I Sing" on Moses and Brown, on. cit. p. 300.

28, George Jean Nathan, <u>The Theatre Book of the Tear</u> 1948-1949: a Record and an Interpretation. (New York: Alired A. Enepf. 1949). p. 261.

29. 1014. p. 280.

30. Bethen, m. cit. p. 282.

31. De las 36 situaciones de Pelti, <u>Desth of a Seleman</u> perticipa en el número 33, juicie errónes, y atmero 21, sacrificio de si mismo por el interés de la familia.

32. Arthur Miller, Death of & Selemon. (New York: The Viking Press. 1949), p.133.

33 Idam.

34. INd. p.86.

35. Bathen, on, cit, p. 281.

36. Int.4. p. 280.

37. Gerelik, m. cit. p. 246. "Dut on the whole the distinguishing feature of Expressionion would seen to lie alsowhere-in a symbolism notable for the vohemence of its symbols."

38. Nation, on. cit. p. 279.

39. Bentley, "Buck to Broadway" on <u>Scheetre Arts</u>, vol. mariii, no. 10. Neviembre, 1949. p.13.

40. Idon.

41. Rethen, op. oft. p. 281.

42. Boutley, "Back to Broudway." pp.12s.

41. Nathan, on oit, p. 280,

44. <u>Idam</u>.

45. Miller, or, cit, p.138.

46. Nathan, op. e15. p. 280,

47. Ibid. p. 284.

48. Miller, er, cit. p. 44.

49. Ibid. p. al.

50. ID16. 3.72.

51. Ibia. p.138.

52. John Chapman, The Hunne Mentle Best Flore of 1948-194 and the Year Book of the Drems in America. (New Your: Dest, Mead and Company. 1949). p. 368.

53. Boatley, "Back to Broedway." p.12.

54. Seymous E. Horris (Ed.), <u>Beongaic Problems of Letin</u> America. (New York: McGraw)Hill Book Company, Inc. 1944). **J. 17**.

55. , Hathan, on, oit, p. 283.

ALGUNAS CONCLUSIONES

El subtitule del presente estudio ha definide les limites de la investigación y abora sirve de marco para algunes conclusiones relativas a las obras y su suerte futura:

Estudio de Siete Obras Repertantes, Representativas de los Cuatro Temas Principales de Protesta

Primero, la importancia de las siete obras. Ne quiero al que escribe insistir que no haya dentro del testre estadounidense contemperanes etras des e tres obras de protesta que merescen ignal estudio; pere estas siete obras representan al mécleo incontestable del testre de protesta.

Ahora, la posición del teatre de protesta del teatre de los Estados Unidos. Una selección universal de "las dies mejares obras del teatre norteamericano contemporáneo" tendría que incluir cuando menos cince obras de protesta social. No quiere este decir que los autores del teatre social hayan side los mejores drumaturgos xi que tedos nos hayan dado un esfuerze sostemido en el teatre xi que tedos los que han eserite una buena obra de protesta sean drumaturgos de protesta, Sen las obras las que constituyen más que los autores el teatre de protesta.

En un textre come el de los Estados Unidos que ha touide poce que <u>degiz-y le dishe</u> ha combiade simpre come el viento-las chras de protesta han constituide la fuerza más consistente y más soutenida, casi pedenes decir el unico <u>gry-</u> <u>pe</u> impertante en el textre emericano. El admitimes que no hay quisfa en este grupe ninguna obra que durará tento tiempe

cone Superar in the Trees o The Mine of Your Life, os necessrio tener en cuenta que su suter. Fillion Serevan." es faise y adelante sobre su tienpe. She il ha comprendide que "Idbarte, Emlite. Fraternite" no era una trilogia hecha y coerietente, sino una prefocia y generalización atrovida de las tres etupas <u>manaivas</u> de la historia moderna. Tocqueville vié et 1840-come spenas venes hay on dis-one in libertad expension a funderne y desenarecer en la isualdada Sareran en 1940 vié la sussaile y la chava simientes y se atrevié a escribir deres para el sigle III, Sereran es el únice som domachanes en les Estades Unides de hay y al devines que el arape de las duras de protesta casi equivale a la obra de Sareran no es disminuir la invertancia del arane. El testre mè se conquista de un magnifico galves la fuerza y el pese brute son tembién negeneries. Calided mas cantidad. Si el testre mortesmeriesno de pretesta apenas brilla como idide Sareyan en colidado en santidad le compensa. En peces alles ha ganade per su preductividad un lugar entre las obras de protesta del munde entere.

"Les cuatro temas principales de protesta..." dicy cires más impertantes? El que escribe se atreve a desir que de les

^{*}Suroyan afirma la libertad y la igualdad económica (o al menos que madio debe quedar pobre: <u>Supener in the Treas</u>), pere para él son hechos aceptades. Su precempación de la futura hermandad del hombre le hace rechasar tedo esfuerze préctice que sea directamente político e económico, así como los sindidatos. Pero ser prefeta no es menos (o menos realista) que ser historiador o reformador; no se puede acusarle de vivir es una terre de martil.

cuntro temas estudiades tres representen no solsmente para los Estados Unidos pero tenhión para el mundo entero los tres problemas transcendentales socio-humanes de la época moderna, o el menos del siglo pasado, del presente y del venidero.

Primer tema. la discriminación racial. ¿Cué es el "macionalismo" de toda Asia hay en día sino una protesta contra la activud de los Europeos hadia las "rasas inferiores" y una rectificación de esta doctrina que intenta justificar la esplotación económica de la carne humana? ¿Caánto tiemes pagari antes de que el "nacionalismo" victoriase de Asia pase a Africa a pesar de las leves discriminatorias y la visiencia en la fortaleza del blanco en Africa del Surt (El hijo de Chandi legrari establecer con heches concretes en Africa 10 que su padre allí unició como idealogía? El negre en los Estados Unidos ha tenido la fuersa política y coonómica para abrir su primer page hadis le que sfirmaron los fundaderes de los Estados Unidos, all men are avented saval, así como lo hasen los puebles edicuiales. Les des preblemas son paraleles y tendrán una selución analoga y contemporanea: la igualdad de los bombres.

Segunde tema, la guerra. Desde "Wydstrata" y "Las Troyance" en el teatro griego los pueblos del mundo han protestado en contra de que los "grandes" manden a los hijos de un pueblo a mater a etros jóvenes a quienes aquellos no pueden ediam. Y shore con la bemba atémica y el avién eselave los

"grandes" sin la ayuda del pueble pueden hacer toda la guerra elles mismos apretando con un dede el botén de un eireuite dé control eléctrice. Como siempre, los grandes hacen las guerras y el pueble muere en allas, Albora no protestará más que numen?

Server tena de protesta, la explotación del obrero industrial. Podemos decir que este abuso llamó la atención desde el nomento del maximiento de la industria, El siglo XIX que comensó con la protésta de Sismendi y que vié el crecimiento de la industria ha sido el siglo de la lucha obrera romántica en Europa.

Hoy en día comprendence mejor que el preceso histórico que creó, por medio de la concentración del capital, la industria, el privilegio económico y la explotación de obrero creó a la ven; por medio de la productión de mentenes de bienes, al mejoramiente de la vida del obrero, hasta el grado que hoy es clara una tendencia igualitaria en las partes más desarrelladas del mundo que hace a los obreros menos pebres y a los expitalistas menos ricos. A la vez que se ha reducide la epertunidad económica, se ha reducido el privilegio económico y se ha crecido el bienestar de todo el mundo. Este mejorsmiente ha acompañado la gransferencia de los capitales más poderosos de manos de algunos individuos a manos del estado. El obrero ya tiene que protegorse tante del estado como de los capitalistas. Xa es claro que la defense obsera ha pasado

de la fase econômica y remántica a la philitica. Cuanto más realista sea, tanto más eficasmente vencerá el obrero a los abusess que le persiguen. El crecimiente de los mindicados representa un hecho mocial incontentable y un medie que se yuede prestar a la <u>concentración</u> política y ami dar a los obreres una fuersa igual a la de la cealizión de los grandes.

Tena cuarto-oue en el fende estribe del misme proceso que la lucha obrers-la máquina y el culto de la venta del burgués. Esta protesta es una supervivencía de la vida acrícola del Cocidante que dominé la vida hasta el sisie XVIII y de una falta de comprensión del muevo proceso comúnico que creció al lade de la méguina, moderfàdere de ellas la concentración econémica. Per una parte más eficas, en téxninos de producción, y por otra parte badada en el peder sparentemente progregive del dinero. la concentración económica-no solemente de máquinas-es el verdadero problema de hey. El proceso no ha mide clare hasta hay en día, pero shora podemos ver el edio de la maning come un mito, engelisder en parte, que derive del Bousgeguine y. ann anteriormente, de la literature pasteral. Hey venes le que hace funcioner a la méquine. En fin de cuentas la protesta contra la máguina es indirecte, equivocada y la misma que expresó Ortega y Gasset en contra del mundo y hembre de mass, o ses en contra de la tendencia igualitaria fementede per la concentración de capital, y la máquine. Es cierto que se han preducido elementes negativos, como per ejemple una

vulgaridad casi incretble en el pueble, así come se produjo la vulgaridad burguesa durante la etapa anterier-en el sigle pasado-del mismo proceso. Pero es más facil resolver el preblema de la vulgaridad que el del hambre y del trabajo que embrutece y mata. Tal vez la protesta contra la máquina tembiém está dirigida simbelicamente contra el estader que ya represente la concentración de empital más poderema. Hay teques de esta idea en la obra de Frans Zafka y otros escritores europees. Es cierto que existe tal abuse por parte del estado, así come no se puede negar la conclusión de Teoqueville de que la sociodad que más presta a la tiremía es la que se compone de ignales; pero en el primer case como en el segundo se puede conregir más facilmente con una pelítica realiste que con una pretesta tan indirecta.

Embién la protesta contra la méquina contiene elementes de protesta contra la restricción de la opertunidad económica; restricción que es una parte inseparable de la igueldad económico. Otra vez la protesta se desvia de la realidad históriea y se equivoca: la tendencia iqualitaria trabaja en contra de los des partidos opuestos, el cuite de la eportunidad y el edio hacia la méguina.

La nostalgia por el cuito de la venta, que ya deseparece en los Estades Unidos y partes de Europea, es etra manifestación del cuito de la opertunidad económica---y un mito----que se desvances.

Así como los cultos de la máquina y de la vonte son une, el de la opertunidad; las dos protestas son en realidad una sela, en contra de la igualdad econômica que sustituye la sportunidad econômica.

Sin protonder dar un valor absolute a cada une de los cuarte grandes temas de protesta, podenos establecer la relación contempora ca entre ellos.

El último de ellos parece el menos prevecativo hoy en día. El culto de la epertunidad combradice el paso de la historia. No tione el munero de fieles que tuvo hace 50 años. Igualmente el odio hacia los dos cultos parece vouir a ser algo pasado de modo.

Los etros tres tenas se basan en abuses más firmes pere une de elles parese llegar en los Estados Unidos e Ingleterra a un equilibrio previsional, o a lo nenes a un embio de etapas. Allá la lucha ebrera ha pasado en gran parte su fase misionera y la tundeneta igualitaria esconémica ha faverecide la conselidación del poder publico del ebrero en una coalición con la burguesia. En el reste del munde ne ha pasado tal presesoj la lucha sindical ha side más dura. Pere tante para el munde angle-enjón come para el etro queda panive por el menonto el problema transcendental para el ebrero, el problema de munda que toda organización ebrera tendrá que reselver-no imperta si la organización de su seciedad sea capitalista, comunista, facieta u etra-el problema de la concentración eco-

némica, sea privada o del estado. Ya se ven unas precempadenes de la "descentralisación" y de la lucha anti-trust per parte del gobierne que émplesan a ir al grano, aunque es obvie que tal propénite global y generalisado no es una solución. En parte la solución será politica-por medio de los sindicates-y en parte vendrá del mismo proceso histórico que creó el problema. El problema que se plantes no es el de eliminar la concentración económica-y su productividad que beneficia al obrero casi tante como al patron-sine el de <u>contralaria</u> y de hacerlo el sirviente en vez del suo del trabajador. Ne es desemperante el problema; el mismo proceso histórico que le ereó traje consigo la tendencia hacia la igualdad que permite una solución política justa si todo el mundo logra comprender el fenemeno económico.

Los des problemes que quedan, el de la discriminación recial de base económica y el de la guerra, son los problemes más durederos, especialmente si ne clvidenes que la discriminación tras consige la reacción en contra de ella, el nacionalismo en las regiones coloniales. Ni uno ni etro se prestan a una selución fácil. Podenes estar ciertos que quedarán come temas de protesta en el futuroj especialmente la discriminación, la cual aunque tiende a desapareser ante los progresos de la conciencia social y las victorias del nacionalisme en las colonias, puede en última instancia apoyarse en el chausimismo de las grandes petencias. Queda por ver si las medicas

nuevas legrarán además de la independencia la igualdad entre maciones.

Pinelmonto, el tema más entique. la guerra, ha causado las protestas más antiquas y apasionadas y paroce ser el menes pasaiero, a pesar del espanto que dan la o armas fantásticas con au posibilidad de emperar una destrucción total autua. Come consecuencia temo que vermos guerras limitadas, a las re-Alas de "esballería." Ouendo ne queden ragones de protestar contra stres abuses, seguremente la guerra todavía será un campo fructifero. Cierto que la tendencia universal es hacia una hegemonia medial-y use pas relative-pero hay la posibilidad de que, antes de la compolidación del poder político mundial. el munde se divida en des partes entegénicas de casi la misma fuersa y se libre a le orgía de sangre más espantosa que se have conocido. A este conclusión llegamos per el estudio de les processes histérices, pero cabe être condiusión monos formal, menos pesimista, según el proceso dramático: la aparición, en el momente en que pudiera estallar la gran guerra, del primer hombre de etre planeta bastaría para unificar las partes entrefaices del mando contra la casasa de una invasión interplanetaria.

Pedenos ver en los cuatro abusos—y igualmente en las protestas—una característica comúns se speyah todos en el hacho de ver todo o blanco o negro y de ver los dos encerrados en un circulo limitado (\hat{n}_{j} - $()_{j}$ sea en el exiterio absolutisto; sea en el determinismo; Seria cometer el mismo error decir

que otro determinisso, el del progreso humano inexorable. comtenga la promose de terminar con estos abuses. Par el contrerio. el mejoremiente de elles-dentro de los limites del proceso histórico-ha venido sienyre y unicamente con la política informada y la educación pelítica libre. Se mejoran los abusta con la revelación de casos consuetos en los cuales the twain do meet, en los cuales la suerra no ha tenido lugar e se ha terminado pronto a causa de la resistencia del pueblo. la organizzation obrera ha arrangado una vida mejor para el peón o ha nostrado al patrón que le conviene pagar un sclarie justo, el obrere ha conculstado a la concentración económica por medio de la condentración calestiva política. la mécuina he obredo yers of bien de todo el pueblo, en los cueles el culto de la venta admite que pierde más que gana en su arguille de no trabajar nunca con los manos; estas revelaciones trabaian lentamente pero tarde o temprano son la muerte del abuse apoyedo en les actitudes absalutistes.

Los procesos de la historia no son ni absolutes ni accidentales. Sen argénicos y orecen cono el cuerpo humano. Tales procesos en sí ne indican nada de progrese o de empeoramiento; son heches que podríanos llamar neutros. Están rehacionados unos con otros, y en la totalidad son a la vez causas y resultados. No se puede cambiar uno de los procesos sin cambiar a la vez des, e tal vez todos.

Pero las actitudes que producen las protestas sociales

no reconscen los procesos nuetros y enreizados. Visto desde ellas el mindo tiene sole dos aspectos: se cierra o se abre. El primero es "bueno," el segundo "male" porque permite los abusos que hemos estudiado, la guerra, el privilegio arbitynrie y el sueldo miseré que llevan al individue donde no quiere ir. Todo es soncillo; hay que sustituir le "bueno," a lo finlo"; hay que conseguir le contrario, o aca la paz, el minum de privilegio político y sconómico y la prosperidad; hay que abrir el mundo.

Esto no es tan sencillo como parece. El mundo se abre casi al mismo paso que se cierra. Otra peradoje es que los gobiernos cierren el mundo del individuo con la justificación de que ani es necempie para poder abrirgele a él. Al mismo tienno el honbre que protesta duda mucho que la manera de gobernar mejer ses de gebernar más. Pienes que uns ves auitado lo "malo," lo "bueno" viene sin hacer más. Confin en su poder de haser que su gobiesmo quite los abuses, pero no tiene confianza en que al gobierne efectue las correspondientes meioras. Toda su experiencia le enseña que los interesos de sus gobernantes no sen los intereses de los gobernados. Desectfia de todo lo que es "pelítico, " y no la presta atención. Es per ese que protesta en contra de los abusos específicos y a veces contra hombres particulareà del gobierno. Arromente protesta contra la organizzación del gobierno. Este, nacional, central. es tan abstracto y renote que el pueble lo ve come

agoncia noutra de juicio e intervención-parocido a Dios-y no como agoncia partidaria que cuida y fementa los intereses del pueblo. El cacique meniguno ha visto imperio, virreinato y varias clases de republica sin diferenciarios y sin haceries mucho caso.

El hombre que protesta signe la política más primitive. limite al interés propio del individus frente a un abuso que hace defie directemente a 61. Tedo su provecto colectivo. si lo hoy, se limita a los fines especificos de auitar los abuson. Son las mismas actividos del revolucionerio, son enecrónicos. Key en la época de los gobiernes masives, la revolución per la fuerza de las aznas es un suste de loco. Sálo es posible la guerra civil y para ésta les rebaldes pecesitan tedes les recursos industriales iguales a los del gobierno. Hor en día sile el gelpe de estade e contrarevolución son posibles al estilo entimo. Estas conclusiones ya se previeron hane más de un sigle per Teoqueville y sparecieron después en los escritos de Orbege y Gespet durante la vignera de la republica español. Tento es así que podemos definir una ley sobre los cambios bruscos de gobierno o casifeveluciones en las peciènes de politica primitiva hoy on dia. Los gobiernos populares o liberales degeneran en la debilidad y la anarquía que producen una reacción conservadora y un golpe de estades los gobiernos reaccionarios degeneran en el miede y falta de confianza en al que producen la viclencia y brutalidad peliciacas o una guerra

con países vecinos teminada la violencia por falta de entemiasmo del partido del gobierno, un gobierno popular o liberal puede temar el mando sin revolución. En una mación con una política menos primitiva, el mismo cielo de combios comre pore por mando de los votantes en elecciones más o menos libros. Así es que el gobierno reaccionario que puede evitar la viciencia tiene más esperanza de una vida larga que el major gobierno liberal excepto en los países ingrésidamente ricen.

It las revoluciones contra los abusos son shore ensertes nices y las actitides del hentre que prevesta no la permiten alconzer mis desses, nos comre presultar "door qué no ven nocessoio los soblernos intenter evitar los abuses que das causa a los protestas universales y persistentes, anaciguando así a los descententes y revelucionaries que sigmare dan tente late y peliezo?" Il passes per alto la avaricia de los de la claas appendente, nos quodos varias resonas todavis. Los appernantes sen siempre hombres de acción y no de visión. Los enteand del sobierne son les más préximes al sobiernes el eus sue na del abune se encuentra siempre dentre de este circulos quitar un abuso se perder a un amiso sin saber si otro u otros tomarén su lugary en el caso de duda mejor pareco no hacer neda que arries ar una perdida. El hombre de protesta, satisfeche per el memento, no es un saigo con el cual el gobierno puede contart vuelva pronto descontente o pronto clvida el gobiorno; su spatia a todo lo que no toque su interés personal

es global. Y todo se complica para el gobierno en una demoeracia dende una mayería de votantes tienen que dar pasivos hacia el gobierno que guiere sobrevivir.

De esto venos que un gobierno "hecho" no puede satisfacer las protestas salvo en el solo caso en que los recursos natureles locales y las circumstancias locales derivadas del proceso histórico mundial sean completemente favorables. Esto explica por qué no eparecieron pretestas graves hasta el periede entre las des guerras mundiales en los Estados Unidos.

Sabence que este país rico-en en 1830 la segunda potencia mundial en el comercio-satisfise durante su primer medie sido a la gran mayoría del pueblo-excepto a los esclavos pe muy numerogos-y enganto e la minoría insigrada con un suelle creible de contento venidero. Pero en 1840 Toqueville vié que el problema casi irremediable creceria no de la esclavitud nogra sino de los abuses por parte de la nueva clase de dusfice de fabricas. Requelto en la guerra civil el problema de la esclavitud. y era claro el de la nueva época que espezó según Laski en la segunda administración del General Grant. La tece de la fabrica y del finenciero sustituyó la del egricultor. En el Ceste el minero y el agricultor seguien su vieje subiente con el selo abuse de las nuevas compañías emnipetentes de ferrecerril, pero en las ciudades del litoral atléntico las fabricas agarron a los inmigrados que podían satisfacorse con menos que los nortegmericanos nacidos en el país. El heche

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de que la innigración pareció continue, inegatable y cientre ereciente sirvié a los éneñes come prueba de que los innigraé des regibien buen trate y estaben cententes, pere hey en die abbass que el ismisrado estaba bies selemente en el assecte de que era neves minerable que cuando estaba antes en Dureno. Quado casi la invignation demués de la primera guerra mundia als essé también el sistema que mastere dureste más de 60 siles la idramatia direra y a la ves el "contente." Estences comenas la turca subsunctiva de actistader a todos los nortesasticause sobre une base de invelded comfuies, terce que las administraciones de Harding y Coelidae ni sieulera amieren eus existió. Anemas expanse a tierro Recovelt durante la evida sconfinice de los slos 10 um mejore pareisì y memorienes. Le continuación de las protestas musatra en que grade las medidas dal Hay Dash distabat do una salución real. Los Batados Usia dos han perdide an inunidad-en la fonte de la seni-cadavitud de la innigración---- tienen eus encontrar salución al problema que ha deminado la política de Europa desde 1840. selución que no se ha lograde en Zurepa como se ve claramente en el grecimiento del fascimo. Las siremetancias locales que permitieyon a los Retados Unidos years you alto al problema se han termindedet la gelución ya no puede ser local sino que tenérá que and conformance al process mandial de la igualdad econômicas La faite de poufienze de los empitalistas en une solución cueleutern av comprushe en la huide del mendent de les Estades Unidos

desde la últime guerra, al igual de lo que pasó en Ingleterra en la segunde mitad del sigle XIX y en Francie después de la primera guerra mundial, huída que se llama demasiado facilmente "el imperialismo," gunque éste es una de las consecuencias pesibles si los países doude entra el capital nortesmericano ne lo controlan. Los problemas del gobierno de los Estados Unides abora son los mismos de todo gobierno.

Ahora bian, si el hombre que protesta no puede y su gobierno no quire quitar los abusos devien los quitará? del pueblo? solo un jueblo más instruído que los que henos visto hasta ehora sería capas de dejar su política primitiva de interés individual. su visión "malo-bueno" de las cossa y su personificación de la historia (mitomanía). Adomás, los abusos, sisado económicos en gran parte, chora son indirectos, salvo le guerra que sigue sigue de usuelmente un abuse directo del sobierno a quien le conviene. dil pueblo rodrá reaccionar ente un abuso indirecto con una politics directs? Es esperar mucho, El pueblo-en mass-no mesde hacer más que el gobierno o el individuo que proteste, pero en las instituciones sociales del pueblo, libres o semi-independientes del gobierno, hay une esperenza. En éstas el esfuerse individual puede dar resultado en favor de mejoras por medio de seciones ya mencionadas en este estudio: un pregrama política basado on el conocimiento de les procesos históricos y efectuade en la política de los siudientos. Las instituciones locales y municipalos, y on la educación política.

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Cierto que este es todo política y las instituciones libres pierden cada dia más su función política, tomando en an luany la scontaica. En sfecto las instituciones políticas "paras" tiendes a desenarecer al no tomos function aconémica. Intonena la necosidad es de incorporar la política democrática en las instituciones e conduicas por medio de la representación politice individual dentro de las unidades más pequeños de cada institución. Henos visto países, que nunce hen conocido la denocrucia política liberal burguesa en eus se puede aprender la Semecracia dentre de los sindicates. Son la parte más real de tede luche popular en contra de les abusos. Ata cuendo no sa sabe nede de la historia y no existen instituciones libres ni modise pera la séusceión política, sicepre el sindicato funciona en contra de los abuses y en favor de la igualdad econômicar No quire esto decir que otres instituciones tales como les ormanienciones econorativas de consuliores o de acricultores no pueden der resultaden pere såle la industrialización averta les medice para veneer al bankre y a la vez los sindicatos que son la espina sruosa de toda lucha pepular.

Si heman establecido que los custro temas de protesta xeflejen les tres problemas mundieles más grandes del día, tenomos una base para comparar la suplitud del contenido en los distintos teatros nacionales da protesta social. En Alemania, Enmia, México, Francia, Itelia, España, Inglaterra y Escandandanavia se han tratado uno u etro de los custro temas, pero sólo

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en los Estados Unidos se han tratado todos. Es un anas enriono eus Indiaterra y Bosendanavia, contros para el ponseniente social-humane mederno, no havan producido não protestas tas-" trales. For fuertes tradiciones de la miera serie burguene. llamada "de problema." anbos testres han presentado namelmente los temas no para protestar sino para dissutirus, reflejando ani une polítice deméstice flexible y la brane sucres de no ser In victime on las relaciones intermetionales. Tal voz no sea demaniado atrevido pensar que estes países han sido desde 1850 los más dimunsion a reconcer las verdades y las pecendades de los procesos históricos y que para ellos los problemos hem quedade menes areves y no llegares al estado que exise una preteste. I tal ves indice also el hache de que en estos paises les ergentigestence obreme ben tentide mis mettes de emresión política y más influencia directa en la política de sus gobiernos. Alli la contición etrevellementes ha funcionado con más fagiliand.

Pedenos concluir que en téxninos de contenido el teatre de protesta social en los Estados Unidos es el más importante, pero en lo que se refiere a la forma el subestilo expresionista desarrellado en Alemanía pesece tener más grandes posibilidades de explotación que lo visto en el textre nortecmericano. Especialmente en la película italiana, El Milacre en Milan se ven reciente las altas pesibilidades artisticas formales de este estilo. Aunque tel vez verenos la creación de otre subestilo remantico, completemente marco, que seperará a los des, es enté

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segure que al tentes de protecta seguirá la corriente rende-

Un equilibrie definitive parece encentrance entre las formas del estilo reminito y el contenido de protesta social y más generalmente tode lucha para majorar la vida del hezbre del pueble. Si tel presentación dramática de los problemas sosiales en forme de proteste no indice las seluciones, el nemes revela que existen teles problemas y provee a quien quiere spoyarse en la historia con los materiales para un analisis y una pesible selución; Edward Owensby

THE THEATRE OF SOCIAL PROTEST in the UNITED STATES

Studies of Seven Important Plays Representative of the Four Principal Themes for Protest

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The Theatre of Social Protest in the United States

Studies of Seven Important Plays Representative of the Four Principal Themes for Protest

TESIS

QUE PRESENTA PARA RECIBIR EL GRADO DE MAESTRO EN ARTES DE LA FACUL-TAD DE FILOSOFIA Y LETRAS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE MEXICO, EL ALUMNO:

Edward Owensby

MAYO 1951 MEXICO, D. F. a mis maestros

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Chapter 1

MINORITY DISCRIMINATION AND LYNCHING

Deep Are the Roots

Hello Out There

UNE OF THE MOST obvious undemocratic practices in the great American democracy, and one which wins a deep distrust for the United States in all of the non-European world, is minority discrimination. It has been chiefly directed against the negro who lived among poverty-stricken and uneducated white neighbors. He who came to America as a bound slave always caught it a little bit worse than his fellow-butt of discrimination who came as an immigrant wage-slave. The non-negro discrimination has been intimately tied to the succeeding national waves of immigration from the Old World: he who came last spoke the worst English, had to take the lowest paid jobs, became the second class citizen of his time, and was relieved to see the next national group show up as material for the "melting pot" on the heels of some new European disaster or tyranny until the early 1920's when the pot's raw material was almost cut off. The pot never worked without human waste, it was almost impartially ruthless and it left its mark on every newcomer. Any difference served for discrimination: color, race, national origin, political tradition, religion, odd dress, beards, traditional diet, anything. If the reader

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will forgive my master race vocabulary, the mick, the chink, the squarehead, the hunky, the greaser, the dago and the kike all had their day, but the jig always had it the worst. The discrimination against the mick, the squarehead and, to some extent, the hunky seems to have passed for the most part, but the come-latelys and the negro are still catching it.

The dramatic protests against discrimination make up a longer list than that of any of the four grounds for protest examined in this study. The negro has been the hero of nearly all of these because he makes a more theatrical protagonist, in addition to the obvious fact that he is the person most discriminated against.

Home of the Brave by Arthur Laurents, 1945, is the only major play dealing with discrimination against Jews, and the Mexican-American is defended only by James Broughton's one-act Summer Fury of the same year. All the rest of the plays are about negros, except for a prize winning series of 13 short radio plays by Alfredo Segre which deserve to be mentioned because Segre studies discrimination among many of the less widely known minority groups and the more subtle group-to-group discriminations within the minority groups themselves. "Your Neighbors" the series was called and was written for the Institute for Democratic Education and distributed nationally to radio stations on records.

The negro plays begin with O'Neill's All God's Chillan Gol Wings, 1924, which studies miscegenation but is not a protest play. The first protest is Paul Green's excellent work, In Abraham's Bosom, 1926 It was followed in 1934 by his Roll, Sweet Chariot, by John Wexley's protest against the frameup of the Scottsboro boys, They Shall Not Die, and by the first rate Stevedore of Paul Peters and George Sklar. Green repeated on the same theme in 1936 with Hymn to the Rising Sun and adapted Richard Wright's novel, Native Son to the stage in 1941.

The 1945-46 season was a big one for protests against discrimination and included Robert Ardrey's *Jeb*, Lillian and Esther Smith's Strange Fruit and James Gow and Arnaud D'Usseau's Deep Are the Roots. The last won out over the other two in the audience's favor, and it receives a detailed study in this chapter. It has been followed only by a weak one-act which was a curtain raiser to Fry's A Phoenix Too Frequent in 1950, Kenneth White's Freight.

The best of the anti-lynch protests, William Saroyan's *Hello Out There*, 1942, is also studied in detail in this chapter. Several of the plays mentioned as protests against discrimination also touch on lynching: *In Abraham's Bosom* and *Stevedore*, the best of them, and *Strange Fruit* and *Freight*.

The theatre goer who buys a ticket to see Deep Are the Roots knows before he does so that the play is about racial discrimination, and if he believes in race superiority he would not have bought the ticket because there are no apologies for discrimination in the contemporary American theatre. Given these conditions, the spectator knows beforehand everything except the details and the denouement. He knows the moral judgment of the play but he does not know whether the solution is semi-tragic (the persecution victim is beaten and the audience condemns the forces which conquer him) or whether it is semi-comic (the victim surprises and confounds his oppressors) or whether it is serious and verisimilar (the victim causes admiration for his struggle with an ugly and unchanging situation). The spectator attends a protest play against racial discrimination, then, with everything previously resolved: the situation, the moral condemnation, the complete anticipation of the scene a faire and the three possibilities for the denouement clearly in mind.

Such a theatre goer guarantees the success of an action melodrama. There is no "problem" nor intellectual stimulus nor mixture of sentiments. Everything is black and white, everything is either virtue or vice, the audience has agreed for a long time with the values expressed in the play.

In case the preceding description may seem negative to the reader, it is necessary to add that the melodramatic theatre has its justification. It was the favorite of the Americans of the past century, a young people, fully confident, active, crude, quick to stamp things ugly or wrong, and without "complexes." Above all, the melodramatic theatre is an extrovert theatre; it verifies the popular moral code and demonstrates an immediate punishment for all vices violating the "unwritten law."

Today the bourgeois audience in the United States is not so simple that it can enjoy all the kinds of melodrama it once could. Two modern genres survive, however, and are successful: the psychological melodrama, in the romantic style, if it has enough subtlety (read "exoticism") of the Freudian variety or if it is based on common fears; and the action melodrama, in the popular or "realistic" style, if it is based on attitudes or prejudices common to large groups of people.

Religion, crimes followed by flights, mystery and inevitable punishments, and the protest against racial discrimination are three themes very much used with the melodrama form in the United States of recent days. The action melodrama of social protest is a hybrid form using a genre of the popular style onto which are grafted foreign formal characteristics, most of them from the romantic style.

The playwrights in the theatre of social content

have rapidly learned that the "message" best adapted to melodrama is that of discrimination. Our times have established a new tentative equilibrium between the melodrama form and a single favorite theme. A magnificent exception which should be mentioned is Kingsley's melodrama, *Dead End*, a work of protest against *conditions* in the slums, where people must live like *qualquier animal*.

The spontaneous reaction of the audience to Deep Are the Roots was assured; the prejudices of the authors coincided with those of the audience. "They're right," was the comment. Another reaction was one of hope when on stage the daughters of the old reactionary Senator were seen making a decision to support the negro protagonist instead of their obstinate father. And, as in all good melodrama, the most powerful spontaneous impressions grow out of the action more than out of the dialog or the characters. It goes without saying that Deep Are the Roots is one of the best action melodramas in the contemporary social theatre.

The authors, James Gow and Arnaud D'Usseau, know very well the limitations and the possibilities of melodrama and they took full advantage of them in their other success, *Tomorrow the World*, a mixture of action melodrama and psychological melodrama.

The action of *Deep Are the Roots* takes place in the home of Senator Ellsworth Langdon, in the Deep South. It is in three acts.

ACT ONE: Honey, a young negro girl, and Bella Charles, an older negro woman, both servants in the house, are getting ready to go to meet Brett, Bella's son, who is returning from the army. The Senator enters and inquires whether Bella has been provided transportation to the station. His younger daughter, Genevra, comes in to announce that she too is going to meet Brett. Her father is annoyed and forbids her

going. When Bella promises to keep her in the car, Genevra is grudgingly allowed to go. Alice, the older daughter of the Senator, is momentarily upset when she hears of her sister's rash action, but her father's accusations that she is responsible for spreading "such fine ideas" do not deeply impress her. Her cousin, Roy Maxwell, comes by to tell them that he has made arrangements for Brett to become principal of the negro school, but Alice says he cannot take the job because he is planning to work for the doctorate in bio-chemistry at the University of Chicago. Alice's plans for Brett leave the Senator quite upset. Howard Merrick, a novelist friend of Alice who is visiting the South for a few weeks, enters and tells the Senator that he and Alice plan to be married. The Senator gives Howard a gold watch which has been in the family for many years.

Genevra bursts in to announce the arrival of "Lieutenant Brett Charles." Howard offers his hand and afterwards the Senator explains to Howard that it is not the custom to shake hands with negros. After the others have gone, Genevra tells Howard about Brett-what a fine person he is and how he and she played together as children until her father forbad it. They leave and Brett comes in looking for Alice. His mother warns him to be careful of his behaviour now that he is back, but Brett tells her that he was treated fairly in England and in the army and he no longers wants to be humble. Genevra comes in with an old rag doll, and she and Brett begin reminiscing although Brett is somewhat reserved with her. As she begins to leave he repeats a few lines from Othello, lines which they had recited when they "played theatre" as children. She returns but Brett insists that they cannot be as close friends as they once were. Alice brings to Brett the papers to be signed for his scholarship at Chicago,

but he has changed his plans. He now wants to be principal of the little negro school. Everybody except Genevra thinks he has made an unwise choice. Finally Alice calls Roy to let him know that Brett will take the principal's job. Bella throws away the old rag doll, despite Brett's protests that he wants to keep it. Bella is suspicious of his look and reminds him not to forget that "black's black and white's white." She and Brett leave for the luncheon being given in his honor.

ACT TWO: A week later. The Senator is in a bad mood, complaining about the unromantic weding arrangements being made by Alice and Howard. Bella returns to Genevra a lipstick she has found and advises her to be less careless with her things. Howard brings in a newspaper with an editorial called "Our Negro Veterans" which he cannot guite understand. It contains the statement "This is America, our prejudices are sacred, and we're proud of them." When Genevra announces to Brett that she has been able to get him a Pullman ticket to the Atlanta conference, he seems nervous. She asks him, when they are alone, why his attitudes seem to have changed since the night before when they had gone walking along the river. He is concerned because a car went by and they may have been seen. He realizes that he has done just what negros returning from the service were expected to do: he has dared to look at a white woman. He tells Genevra he loves her, as he has for a long time and as he will for some time to come, but that he will not tell her so again. Genevra is not sorry he has spoken and she tells him she will do the only thing she can do, she will go away so that she will not be there when he returns from Atlanta.

Brett tells Alice of the mixed conference for negros and whites, and she asks him not to go because there are "many Communists" at such meetings. Brett tells his mother that Alice disapproves of his going to the conference, and Bella urges him to leave home for good, to go to the North, because she feels he has done wrong in being so friendly with Genevra. The Senator enters, becomes irritated to find Brett sitting in his chair, and orders him away—and to take off his uniform. As soon as the Senator has gone, Alice rescinds his order and blames his flare-up on Howard's showing him the editorial. Howard calls the Senator a "relic," and Alice's resentment becomes even greater when he adds a comment about the South:

On top the flower is quite beautiful, full of grace and very delicate. But underneath are the roots, and occasionally you glimpse them, twisted and crossed as if choking each other.

When the Senator returns he notices that Howard is not wearing the gold watch, and Howard has to admit he has mislaid it. Roy comes in to report stories going around the town about Brett's behaviour, one about an incident at the library. Howard, however, happened to be at the library at the time, and he has a different version. The Senator sends for Honey because he is convinced that Howard's watch was not lost and that Brett stole it. Genevra hears her father questioning the chambermaid and sees him leave to search Brett's room. Genevra and Howard are left alone and she tells him of a lynching she saw as a child and of the unforgettable looks on the faces of the lynchers. She says she saw that look on her father's face as he left to search Brett's room. Howard tells her that she is in love with Brett, but she refuses to admit it:

Don't you realize what happens to a woman in the South who is accused of a thing like that? Why, she's hated worse than a Negro!...I'm really very angry!

Brett brings to Alice an unsigned note which warns

her that she has been seen with Brett coming out of the woods. Alice becomes suspicious of Genevra and is horrified when Genevra says it is true, that she was with Brett, that she is very fond of him, and that, in fact, she loves him. Alice tries to get Genevra to say that Brett forced her to accompany him and that he has a deliberate scheme afoot, even to stealing the watch. Howard tries to persuade Alice to be reasonable, but she refuses. He leaves. Honey comes in to tell the Senator she has found the watch, and he forces her to say she found it in Brett's room. The sheriff and his deputies come, and Brett tries to escape. They beat him while Alice screams "No!" until Howard stops them. As they carry the unconscious Brett out, Howard turns to Alice and says, "Well? Are you satisfied?"

ACT THREE: That evening. The Senator is trying to bring Alice out of a troubled mood. She is disturbed by her alienation from Howard and by Brett's being beaten and put into jail. Cousin Roy Maxwell comes in to advise the Senator to ask for Brett's release. Some of the townspeople are stirred up, particularly because Brett is a veteran. Despite the fact he will lose the Senator's political backing, Maxwell decides to request Brett's release himself. Bella comes back from an unsuccessful attempt to see her son. Bitterly she tells the Senator she wants nothing more to do with his house. Alice asks her father if Brett really stole the watch. Getting no answer, she answers herself: he did steal it. Genevra and Howard arrive after also having failed in their attempt to see Brett and to get him a lawyer. Alice suprises them by telling them that Brett is being released that night and will be put on a train for the North. Genevra would like to see him but is told that it is impossible. She decides also to go North, immediately, and to find Brett through his friends there.

Honey enters hesitantly to confess that the Senator

made her say she had found the watch in Brett's room, and she asks Howard to return to the Senator the ten dollars he gave her. The room is empty for a short time until Brett, bandaged and dirty, comes in, as then does Alice, and she is startled by his presence. He wants to know one thing: Why did she not let him defend himself when he was accused of being a thief? She has to confess that although she wanted to be just and fair she still considered him an inferior. Howard comes in after having sent for the Senator, who appears and is given his ten dollars. He expresses his hate for Brett and negros like him, and when Alice reveals that Genevra is in love with Brett the Senator goes to his room in a fury. Alice is completely disillusioned. Brett says that he wants only to be allowed to live his own life and that he has decided "the wall is too high to climb." Howard tries to make him say that as long as he trusts Genevra he cannot feel that all white people are bad, but Brett becomes furious and refuses to hear any more from him.

Genevra comes down with her suitcase, ready to catch the train, and is happily surprised to find Brett there. She asks him to marry her so that they can go North and live together, but Brett is not certain it would be any better for them or for the world. She still feels, however, that she must leave town, and Howard goes with her to the train, promising to come back to Alice who is left alone once more with Brett. "Maybe that wall is not quite so high," she says to him. The Senator comes in, ignores Brett and announces to Alice his means for fighting the situation:

... you're lost—lost. Fortunately, there are others who see the danger, there are men in this very village, armed and awaiting the day. Not Cousin Roy and his colleagues, but others, they are ready to fight and kill. They have their arsenals—they have their guns. I have already given them money. I'll give them more more money. I go to join my allies.

He leaves after Alice reminds him he forgot his watch. Brett says to Alice, "We're on the same side," and she answers "Yes, Brett, yes...yes" as they clasp hands and the curtain falls.

The movement of the play would serve very well as a model for the young dramatist who wished to learn the technique of tempo and rhythm used in a large part of the American commercial theater: the psychological and action melodrama, comedy, except for the romantic, and the farce-comedy. All of these genres have, as a rule, movements like that of Deep Are the Roots, and its excellence within a tradition of many years is what causes Allardyce Nicoll to speak of the "skillful technique" of the play. The tempo consists in a series of accelerations, a technique called "building a scene" and made up of short scenes which begin at a slow pace. The accelerations come from the introduction in each short scene of new actions, each one calmed afterwards with an arbitrary and tentative resolution. The new actions have an ascending importance and their sequence gives an open rhythm which narrows toward the curtain of each act and, especially, toward the climax in the third act. The rhythm, like that of drawing room comedy, is one of broad undulations with tense positive peaks and relaxed negative depressions. In Deep Are the Roots and in almost all the plays of the above mentioned genres which have similar movements, the majority of the new actions satisfy physical intrests, often sexual, rather than represent a logical and natural outgrowth of the preceding actions.

Precisely because they recognize the possibilities and limitations in the movement of a good melodrama, Gow and D'Usseau have given us a good example of the technique. In the preceding generation the masters of this technique as applied to the comedy are George Kaufman and George Abbot. In the present one, the successor and disciple of Abbot in comedy is the director, and author of *Born Yesterday*, Garson Kanin. In another chapter of this study there is a detailed critique of his play.

Whoever expects a logical and artistic structure from the melodrama expects a lot. When Gassner criticizes *Deep Are the Roots* for having "some plot devices...strained too far," ² he is certainly dreaming of other genres, because among the characteristics of the melodrama that of plot subtlety is missing.

The principal structure is the illustration of the milieu of discrimination, whose roots are deep, and, in the crisis of the play, the substructure of the "ironic discovery" is used as it was used by Terence. This ironic discovery arises from the fact that some of the characters of the play, and usually the audience, are already acquainted with essential discoveries of the plot which are not known to the rest of the characters. The evening walk of Genevra and Brett, and her purchase of the Pullman ticket to Atlanta for him, produce the crisis of the play when the Senator and Alice find out what the audience already knows. The crisis is divided into two climaxes: the first, in the second act, when Alice finds out about Brett and Genevra and enters into the spiteful conspiracy which her father conceived in order to send Brett to jail for robbery; the second is the repetition of the first, when, in the third act after Brett escapes, the Senator discovers Brett and Genevra's relationship (Genevra aggravates it by asking Brett to marry her) and leaves to call the lynch mob he has helped organize and finance, while Alice is left as Brett's tentative ally in his plan to flee to the North.

Such structures based on illustration and repetition

are cited by Lawson⁸ as characteristic of the contemporary commercial American theatre, and he criticizes them severely; he argues for a logical and generative progression of the action in their stead.

The action consists of so many parts that several sentences are necessary in order to set it forth in a logical proposition, and this, according to Price, ' constitutes a weakness:

A. Brett, negro war veteran, returns as a lieutenant and refuses the scholarship arranged by Alice for study at the University of Chicago. He decides to remain in his hometown as a teacher in a negro school.

B. Genevra buys the Pullman ticket for Brett's journey to a conference in Atlanta, and some of the neighbors see Brett and Genevra on a moonlight walk. They mistake her for her "liberal" sister Alice, and they send a threatening letter to Alice. When Alice finds out about the ticket and the walk, out of despair she enters into the spiteful conspiracy to sent Brett to jail.

C. Brett escapes and returns to confront Alice who is terrified. Alice is shocked when Genevra offers to marry Brett, who in turn explains to Genevra that circumstances will not permit their marriage. The Senator discovers what has happened between Brett and Genevra and leaves to call the lynch mob. Alice, who has remained with Brett, tells him he can count on her help.

It is not a sufficiently concise proposition to have pleased Price, but it is characteristic of the action ⁶ of a melodrama.

Only the bare necessities of the action are served by the set: the rich interior of the Senator's house in the South which has been more than a hundred years in the family. Nothing is suggested of the environment outside of the house, and neither the house nor the environment participate plastically in the action; everything from outside is known through the words of the characters.

The characterization also shows the stamp of the traditional melodrama. The opinion of Nicoll of "firm handling of dramatic character" " is exaggerated if he speaks of the drama in general and not specifically of the genre of melodrama. All characters are "types" " using Usigli's term, and are two-dimensional. The entire cast of characters, with the exception of Brett, and including the negro women, forms a harmonious group; all but Brett belong to the Senator's household. The play's foundations hardly rest upon conflicts between groups of characters or upon sharp divisions within the same group of characters. Technically there is a lack of grouping of characters in forming the parties to the conflict. All conflicts are occasional, or of an intimate or familiar nature, and they are catalyzed by the arrival of the "stranger," Brett, who returns home transformed by his experiences in the war. Perhaps the unbalanced grouping was selected by the authors to emphasize the aloneness of the protagonist and win greater audience sympathy for him from the beginning. Arbitrary, yes, but so is melodrama.

The style of *Deep Are the Roots* is principally naturalistic, and therefore within the romantic style current, and is based on almost complete illusion. It does not resort to the conventions of the popularstyle melodrama, as known in the past century: no "aparts" or twisting of mustache on the part of the villain; no fainting of the heroine; no inevitable corporal punishment. Even so, the melodrama of today is only slightly more subtle. The style is one which has rendered its services to a long series of writers for the commercial theatre and the movies. A brief review of the Gow-D'Usseau team's career will help explain their sure handling of the melodrama:

Both men are...refugees from Hollywood and are bent to make the fullest use of their freedom...In 1931 Mr.

Gow entrained for Hollywood, the last resort of footloose writing men, and three years later won honors as the coauthor of the picture One Night of Love... Consequently he found himself in great demand for screen jobs involving operatic matter. In between assignments he collaborated. with Edmund North, on a stage play The Drums, Professor which...Frank McCov tried out in White Plains but failed to bring to New York. Another collaboration, Rhyme Without Reason was produced by Arthur Beckhard in San Francisco during the 1937-38 season but closed after a week's run... Arnaud D'Usseau... His first successful celluloid assignment was the thriller One Crowded Night. From then on, in Hollywood's delightful manner, he was typed as a mystery writer... Messrs. Gow and D'Usseau met on the R. K. O. lot and found themselves collaborating on an original story Repent at Leisure. Gow suggested collaboration on a stage play dealing with a destructively possessive mother, How Like an Angel. After various other chores for the film industry, the two men joined forces in 1942 on another serious enterprise as they started speculating about what would happen if a Nazitrained youngster were to come into contact with the democratic way of life. The happy result was Tomorrow the World. The play was placed on the market when the authors were in the East working on a documentary film for the O. W. I.'s Overseas Motion Picture Bureau under Robert Riskin. The Theron Bamberger production, directed by Elliott Nugent, opened on April 14th, 1943. A second company started touring the play in September, 1943. The collaborators stayed together as privates in the Signal Corps Photographic Center in Astoria. Long Island, within subway distance of Broadway. Here they found an opportunity for a second successful collaboration, Deep Are the Roots, which opened on Broadway with a detonation in the fall of 1945.

Their preceding work, *Tomorrow the World*, is of the same genre of action melodrama as *Deep Are the Roots* and the two plays show the authors' apprenticeship in Hollywood. Some day a student of the theatre will make an interesting study of the theatrical forms of the nineteenth century which dominate the production of movies in Hollywood. The language of *Deep Are the Roots* is also characteristic of the melodrama. It is neither that of the characters, unless the director arranges it that way, nor that which establishes the authors' personal stamp. It is a function of the action which it must present, and it sticks close to it and serves it in the same way that the dialog of the American "western" story serves what it has to relate.

The play, like every good melodrama, has a much greater success on the stage than in the library. The strongest emotions come from the action with its provocative social suggestions and, secondarily, from the dialog which has the sole function of carrying the action forward at a swift pace. The two-dimensional characters have little interest outside of their actions and their sexual tension.

We have now said enough about the action melodrama as a traditional form in the nineteenth-century American theatre, but the first examples of the use of this genre in the social protest theatre of the present century deserve to be mentioned. The first is probably The Last Mile by John Wexley, one of the ten best plays selected by Burns Mantle for the 1929-30 season. It is a melodrama about the life in a penitenciary, although Sobel calls it a "tragedy," ° and it is a protest against the death penalty. Again Wexley was chosen for the 1933-34 selection with his They Shall Not Die a protest against the false process of a group of young negros in the South, the infamous Scottsboro case. The year 1934 is also the one in which appeared the melodrama against racial discrimination and its economic causes which many critics called the best in its genre, and which several of them named the best play of the American leftist theatre: Stevedore, written by Paul Peters and George Sklar.

Attitudes toward discrimination have changed since

1934; while Peters and Sklar could count on the prejudices necessary to the success of their melodrama only in the small workers' theatre, in 1945 Gow and D'Usseau could count on the same prejudices among the bourgeoisie in order to assure a commercial success for their protest play. This is one of the reasons why Deep Are the Roots shows a less combatitive spirit than Stevedore. Another is found in the personal antecedents of Gow and D'Usseau.

Before it appeared in the United States, the melodrama triumphed in the European middle class theatre of the nineteenth century. Usigli gives us an account of the origins of its characters in the conventionalization of the romantic theatre in France. ¹⁰ Today only the psychological melodrama remains in the romantic current; the action melodrama has been incorporated into the popular style, as the psychological melodrama will be when it acquires "standard" types and a non-exotic, common sense basis.

If there is a symbolic element in the Gow and D'Usseau melodrama we find it in the final decisions of the Senator's daughters: Genevra's separation from her family and her home in the South; the hesitant, timid and still "liberal" help which Alice offers to Brett. Surely they are not revolutionary symbols, as we should think from Gassner's phrase, "they dynamited the facade of false liberalism," 11 but they show at least small actions on the part of two persons of "good will," as Gassner likes to say. Another nebulous element is the veteran as the hero of the play. In the year of the atomic bomb upon Hiroshima and the return to their homes of the first veterans, the sight of the civilian still wearing his uniform (there was not much civilian clothing) with the insignia of the "ruptured duck" caused a great impression of gratitude and a feeling

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in the people of responsibility toward the veteran. "War Veteran" was the magic phrase of 1945.

Upon this background, the best synthesis, perhaps, of the literal meaning of the play is that of Gassner: a protest against "surface magnanimity and rooted prejudice." ¹² The moral condemnation of Deep Are the Roots almost does not show in the text. The authors contented themselves with forcefully carrying forward an action which would verify the condemnation with which the spectator entered the theatre. There is a trace of the melodrama of the last century: the abusive speech of the old Senator when he exits for the last time to call the lynchers, which, in times of a more open expression of impulse, would have resulted in a hurricane of whistling and perhaps would have caused the leap from the house onto the stage of a "defender" from among the spectators, and the assault on the Senator, in spite of his age. Today we are more rational, but the old trick still serves to provoke at least an intellectual protest and hold it during a half a page until the third act curtain. When the curtain falls we doubt, perhaps, the permanency of Alice's "liberal" decision, but there is no doubt that the old man is "evil, evil as a man can be." We leave the theatre triumphant and happy.

The judgment of "skilled technique" is not so exaggerated, then, if we do not attempt to apply the values of the art theatre to the melodrama. There is no doubt that Gow and D'Usseau know their melodrama business.

The events which appeared in newspapers as a background for *Deep Are the Roots* in the 30's and 40's could be collected by the hundreds. The most notorious was the Scottsboro Case which we mentioned before. The most ugly one to follow it occurred in the suburbs of Los Angeles in 1946. A negro had purchased

a lot and on it built a house largely with his own hands. He paid no attention to the threats of his white neighbors. The house nearly finished and the wife and children of the negro installed in it, the white neighbors came in the midnight darkness with kerosene and gasoline, set fire to the house, and burned the negro's family inside of it. This not in the South but in the "liberal" state of California. Los Angeles is particularly "liberal" as Americans of Mexican extraction know. The play Summer Fury by James Broughton deals with the police of that liberal city and their treatment of Mexican-Americans, affectionately called "cholos" by the police.

Brett also speaks in *Deep Are the Roots* of the good treatment of negro soldiers by the people outside of the United States, especially in England, France and Belgium, and of the violence of white southern soldiers when they saw negros in the company of European girls. In Belgium, more than in any other part of Europe, many negro soldiers married local girls and remained in Europe to live when they were discharged from the Army. There came out in the newspapers during the war reports of increased violence in Belgium and in some of the ports of France, caused by the association of negro soldiers with white girls, but the affair was too well whitewashed by the War Department for it to be exposed in a complete investigation of the incidents.

But violence is not the most powerful weapon of race discrimination. The real weapon is economic, and it is a cause as well which spirals up feeding on itself. The segregation of racial minorities into lower paid jobs is drawing the line more tightly about the "second class citizen" which is the new "liberal" concept which attempts to shift the basis of prejudice: "It's not because you are black, it's because you don't earn enough."

This contemporary semantic evolution holds infinite possibilities to the advantage of the master race supervising the melting pot. Its goal is obvious, the social "organization" of the United States into two groups: the American of northern Euorpean extraction who will "supervise" and live in the best houses; and the rest of the Americans who will do the work and live wherever space can be found for them. Another function of vested economic power is the one which permits the owners of houses and buildings to say that second class citizens cannot rent them or purchase them. This is the same ancient European "ghetto" system based on the fact that if a man cannot live near the good jobs, he will have to take whatever pay is offered where he is. Such a segregation also permits municipal "economies" to the first class citizen, because good schools, paving, sanitary service, etc., are necessary only in the "better" part of town. This too forms a spiral because the "better" parts of every American town get better and better as the "worse" parts get worse and worse.

One of the ugliest centers for economic discrimination against the negro is Washington D. C. where the American law-makers sit. Probably the only center where whites and negros can gather socially or hold joint meetings is the clubhouse of the American Veterans Committee there. A protest at the popular level provoked by the discrimination exercised by landlords against negros is expressed in the "Bourgeois Blues" of the famous folksinger, Leadbelly. The song also reflects in one of the verses a new social trend, the increasing representation of the negro in the federal government and along with it the growth of bourgeois prejudices among negro bureaucrats against negros with small incomes:

Me and my wife, went all over town

Everywhere we go the people would turn us down, Lawd In the Bourgeois town, Heee, the Bourgeois town I got the Bourgeois Blues-gonna spread the news all around. Dean Martin, he was standing upstairs I heard a white man say I don't want no niggers up there, Lawd He's a Bourgeois man, Heee, Bourgeois town I got the Bourgeois Blues-gonna spread the news all around. Home of the brave, land of the free I don't want to be mistreated by no bourgeoisie, Lawd In a Bourgeois town, Heee, Bourgeois town I got the Bourgeois Blues, I'm gonna spread the news all atound. Me and my wife, we went all over town Everywhere we would go the colored people would turn us down, Lawd In a Bourgeois town, Heee, the Bourgeois town I got the Bourgeois Blues, I'm gonna spread the news all around. If white folks in Washington, they know how Took the colored man and nigger just to see him bow

Took the colored man and nigger just to see him bow It's a Bourgeois town, Heee, the Bourgeois town I got the Bourgeois Blues, I'm gonna spread the news all around.

Tell all the colored folks to listen to me Don't try to find no home in Washington D. C. 'Cause it's a bourgeois town, Heee, the Bourgeois town I got the Bourgeois Blues, and I'm gonna spread the news.

Thanks to the not completely disinterested propaganda of the Soviet Union, which continues with its project of social education of the American people about discrimination, ¹³ all the world knows that the treatment of minorities in the United States is not merely another "black legend." Even in places where an American movie has never arrived, the people know the caprices of the "master race" in the United States. Especially among the "inferior races" of Asia this American superiority complex is well known and perhaps

affords a partial explanation for the lack of affection on the part of Asiatic peoples for the generous and smiling American soldier.

Because of this world wide propaganda, the American people felt a little bit ashamed at the end of the second World War when they saw that really there was no great difference between a Hitler and a Rankin or a Talmadge or a Bilbo or some American military commanders. Gassner speaks of this motivation for Deep Are the Roots:

The Negro issue was, in fact, a major concern...as dramatists who had noted the crimes of the German nation turned to their own backyard.¹⁴

The American people with their strong respect for the law, even when badly administered, had tolerated discrimination and the violence of the racist minority for many years, but in the postwar period they insisted on a Fair Employment Practices Law. Another proposed law, the anti-lynch bill, met with the filibusters of the southern Senators and was not passed. President Truman ordered the Army in 1949 to begin the elimination of the old custom of placing negro troops in separate units, ¹⁷ and he won the election of 1948 largely because of his liberal promises (mostly unfulfilled because of the obstacles offered by southern politicians) of justice and equal opportunity for minorities. The Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the various states must admit negro students to their universities if there are not equal facilities in schools expressly instituted for the education of negros. The University of Texas admitted negro students in the faculties of law and architecture during 1950. In this last faculty, classes are small, and when the new negro student entered his first class, all of the students stood up to shake hands and introduce themselves.

Deep Are the Roots is the most important among

the plays written after the war and dealing with the "negro problem" (the author would prefer to define this theme as the "white problem," which sounds more suited and revealing). During the same period four other plays based on this problem were presented in the United States, but each one of them had a very short life if compared with *Deep Are the Roots* which opened September 26, 1945, and ran 477 performances during two seasons on Broadway, closing November 16, 1946. Burns Mantle, choosing this play as one of the "ten best" of 1945, compares it favorably with two others produced in the same year:

Deep Are the Roots having to do seriously with the Negro problem as it is pretty certain to rear a troubled post-war head in the Southern states, was the first and the most effective of several dramas inspired by a similar theme. Others included Lillian and Esther Smith's Strange Fruit and Robert Ardrey's Jeb. Each of these attracted adherents who were quick to protest the superiority of one or the other. Deep Are the Roots, however, proved more to the liking of the general playgoing public. It boasted a sincerity in writing and in performance that cut definitely through a certain overlay of theatricalism.¹⁰

Gassner calls it "immediately emotional and provocative" and says that it lacks little to be "memorable."¹⁷ Without hesitation, Nicoll asserts that it is "the best on the negro problem."¹⁸ The author of the present study thinks that this play is the best among the ones written in the 40's and based on such a theme; but he does not wish to compare its quality with that of *Stevedore*, the best play of the 30's, according to the almost unanimous opinion of the American critics.

Certainly it is better than the previous social melodrama of the same authors, *Tomorrow the World*, even though Gassner liked the latter well enough to include it among his 17 best American plays of the second World War years. Also inferior to *Deep Are the Roots* is *Legend of Sarab*, the latest effort of the team which opened October 11, 1950, and was charged with lack of originality and a substitution of ridicule for humor.¹⁹

Deep Are the Roots has a theatrical form which seems almost indestructible and treats a problem which will not be resolved in the next few years. Its protest is still valid and we are permitted to think that it is sufficiently good theatre to remain on the boards periodically for several years. It is well adapted to the important American little theatre and this guarantees it a long happy life off Broadway. Surely it will not have to remain in a dark archive waiting for actors of fantastic genius.

In 1951 the young American theatre of social protest is hardly of age, when we consider that its real life begins in 1923 with *The Adding Machine* by Elmer Rice and *Roger Bloomer* by John Howard Lawson, followed in 1925 by Lawson's *Processional*, or even younger if we adopt a more typically American criterion, calling the three expressionist plays "anticipations." In any case, its healthy and indigenous life, expressed by a large group of dramatists instead of only two, begins in 1929 with *Street Scene* by Rice, and the melodrama, *The Last Mile*, by John Wexley.

The experience of the young theatre now demonstrates a tentative equilibrium between form and content: the adaptability of the action melodrama to social protest and action. I say tentative because in the melodrama no author has reached an equilibrium such as that in other genres of the social theatre (example: *Waiting for Lefty*). There is as yet no melodrama with an equilibrium of the quality of those which we call in this study "archetypes" (equilibriums more or less definitive between form and content which are useful for making comparisons with the partial equilibriums of similar but secondary works). The melodrama is a non-intellectual form of theatre, and with this limitation it cannot discuss abstract problems. On the contrary, it must resolve an immediate problem with an immediate action. Neither can it be ahead of its time; it can only treat themes which are accepted social values (if *newly* accepted, better, for the novelty). The audience will have established the hero and the villain before the opening curtain, in accord with its prejudices.

Although Deep Are the Roots is not an archetype, it has an interesting native and tentative equilibrium to which perhaps the future will give the place of a typically American archetype in the genre of the social protest action melodrama. There are, in fact, critics who think that the melodrama genre has been the most successful one in the social protest theatre; the author takes the position of "we'll see."

Minority discrimination in the United States tcday takes for the most part the form of persistent economic attrition against the second class citizens. The days in which it flared up in lurid outbreaks of lynching are mostly past. The number of lynchings has steadily decreased each year since the peak was passed in the last century. This decrease has been contemporaneous and corollary to the increase in prosperity of the South, which in turn has served gradually to exterminate the rankling myth of "the abused South." As the underfed white and the underfed negro gradually found themselves side by side in the factory and later fought pellagra, company houses, and black lists together, they forgot old enmities in the recognition of a common need, unionization and a living wage, and a new common enemy, the few who try to sow hate and disunity among the many. Service in two World Wars

also helped to create a bond between the black soldier and the white one, and today liberal veterans' clubhouses without a color line are helping to break down the hate tradition in places such as Tallahassee, Florida.

Lynching is more a historical than a contemporary subject for the theatre, and it is characteristic of American liberalism that there is now before Congress a bill, which still cannot be passed, to outlaw lynching—now that lynching is almost non- existent. It is also characteristic of the caprices of William Saroyan that at such a time he chooses to write his only social protest play against an abuse which is largely past. And he chooses a white protagonist precisely, we must suppose, because it is usually negros who have been lynched.

But Saroyan's play, which will be examined next, is better than those by men who saw more clearly the issue in protest. We can only attribute such contradictions to an excess of raisins in the childhood diet cf the Fresnan, and hope that he will continue to write responsible plays in an irresponsible manner.

It seems that about William Saroyan there is no middle course; the spectator or reader is either a passionate partisan of the Californian or the mere mention of Seroyan's name is enough to start a tirade against him. In the same way Saroyan's characters seem lovable to some persons and ridiculous to others, and the characters are the principal element in all the plays of the romantic dramatist from the San Joaquin Vallev. Hello Out There, although it is his most naturalistic play, is pure Saroyan, and the spontaneous reaction to the characters in it is the same that his other plays cause. The situation and the action are secondary to the characters in expressing the emotion of the play. The language is beautiful but because of its novelty it evokes less emotion from the audience.

, The author of this study saw Hello Out There for the first time at the Experimental Theatre of the Huntington Park Civic Theatre, near Los Angeles, directed by young Sam Peckinpah. The performance was directed by a student of Peckinpah in "theatre in the round" style with a minimum of scenery and it was a good sample of Peckinpah's mastery of the spirit of the work of the controversial dramatist from Fresno, California. It was an ideal situation for the critic: himself, the director, and the dramatist, all were from the same land of the orchards and vineyards and the devouring summer sun. For one born in the San Joaquin Valley, the romantic characters of Saroyan are not rare; he has seen them picking grapes in the Septembers before World War II, when the foremen of Anderson and Clayton had not yet begun their inspections of the work in the cotton fields from four light airplanes. Or he might have seen them more recently in one of the taverns along the Embarcadero in San Francisco, or in the Black Cat five or more years ago, before the deluge of the homosexuals upon it.

For one who has associated with migratory workers in commercial agriculture, the young man in jail in Matador, Texas, is not a romantic figure; he is an old acquaintance from one of the various dozens of jails between Fresno, California, and Matador, Texas. It is moving, but not so rare, to hear the young man say: "People are the same everywhere. They're different only when they love somebody. That's the only thing that makes 'em different. More people in Frisco love somebody, that's all." If this is a ridiculous romanticism, a good part of the people of San Francisco, and the San Joaquín Valley, in 1940 lived and died ridiculous romantics.

Hello Out There is an action melodrama in one act, the only romantic melodrama in the contemporary

American theatre, besides Robert Sherwood's *Petrified Forest*, known to the present writer. But before taking up a complete formal analysis we shall review the action of the play.

A young man in a small town jail cell sits tapping slowly on the floor with a spoon, then he gets up and walks around the cell, looks around and calls several times, "Hello out there." A girl's voice answers, he wonders if she is Katey, but she says no, she is Emily, who cooks there. He asks what she looks like, she says she does not know, but he decides she must be "O. K." because he "never missed yet." When she says, "Yeah, I know. That's why you're in jail," he tells her it was a mistake, it was not rape as they claimed. She asks why he keeps saying "Hello out there" and he says it is because he is lonesome..."Lonesome as a coyote." She appears then, a plainly dressed plain girl, to tell him she is lonely too. He tells her she is pretty and now everything will be all right. He tells her they will be married and go to San Francisco where life will be good because they will be together. He asks if she can get a key to let him out but she tells him they can't let him out because the people from the first town where he was put in jail might come for him in the night. She goes to look for a hammer or a broom or anything he might be able to use to get out. She starts to go to buy him cigarettes but he tells her to go instead for her father's gun because if they come for him he wants to kill them. He gives her money so that if anything happens to him she can go to San Francisco, the place he has been telling her about. She asks if people are different there and he says "People are the same everywhere. They're different only when they love somebody." She leaves and he paces the floor again, finally sitting down with his head in his hands. until he hears the sound of cars outside. A man enters,

the husband, and draws his pistol when the young man tells him about the woman: she is a tramp; he did not know she was married; she asked for money so he left; she began shouting she had been raped. The husband fires three times and runs away. The girl Emily returns to tell him she could not find the gun, and asks him what is wrong. He tells her again to go away, to get to San Francisco, then he falls dead as she stands nearby. The husband and two friends come in with the wife who wants to see the young man dead. The men lift his body to carry it out, the girl runs toward them telling them they cannot take him away, but the woman pushes her to the floor. They carry the young man's body out and the girl gets up slowly, looks straight out and whispers "Hello—out—there! Hello—out—there!"

Saroyan's plays are not characterized by their observance of the formal criteria of the theatre. His emphasis is more on character than on the other elements of form, so much so that several critics have taken as one of his distinguishing marks his "formlessness." ²⁰ Therefore when we make a formal analysis of a Saroyan play, excepting that of the characters, it is a relative one, we analyze whatever form there may be.

The movement of *Hello Out There* is based on three elements: a slow tempo which increases in acceleration after the girl is convinced (when she answers "I love you" to the boy's speech "More people in Frisco love somebody, that's all"), on an idealized sexual longing; and on a restrained rhythm which gradually opens and reaches a crescendo at the end of the play. The very slow beginning is not characteristic of melodrama and helps to concentrate from the opening curtain the interest of the audience in the characters, rather than in the situation or in the action.²¹

The dramatic structure is nearly non-existent. Perhaps it brings to mind a tragedy that marches inexorably toward a predetermined and unjust end for the protagonist, or perhaps a tragedy that gives a last hope to the unfortunate victim only to remove it afterwards. Or if we place the emphasis upon the girl the structure is a modification of the classic "discovery" of Aristotle, the suggestion of a discovery, a discovery half unfolded and half understood but unmaterialized; or in terms of both characters, it is the romantic discovery of the blinding moment of finding love before the young man's death. But against the last possibility we must be warned that Saroyan's heroes do not have a single love, they have multitudes, they love everyone all at once or one at a time.

Doubt about the structure should not prejudice the reader so much as it does critics and professors, and perhaps the doubt will be counterbalanced by an unexpected logical excellence. The play easily passes the test of Price's proposition:

A. A young man falsely jailed for rape wins the confidence of the cook left alone there. She leaves to obtain a pistol so that he may defend himself from the lynch party when it comes.

B. While she is still near the jail she hears the lynch party and returns to find the young man has been shot.

C. He urges her to leave town for San Francisco with the money he gave her, he falls dead and the lynch party carries his body away over the girl's protests.

The place is a small town in Texas, the time is the present. There is a minimum set; Saroyan specifies only the cell. The dramatist suggests strongly in the dialog, but not in the staging, the constant restriction of small town life which is here given as the cause of hate and pettiness. The same restriction is suggested in Sherwood's *Petrified Forest*. This environment has a principal role in the action, it is from it that the young man wants to save the girl, and really it is this generalized personage rather than the husband who kills the prisoner. The young man and the girl are both outcasts in the small town; they find each other because they live in the same solitude.

The young man is a typical Saroyan character, profound, changeable, good humored and full of, and knowing, love—strikingly like Saroyan himself. The girl is one who appears many times in the Californian's plays, young, tender, on the verge of discovering love as the most important find in the world. Both characters are exotic, offer a strong contrast to their surroundings and find themselves in the minority, as any Saroyan character does. Both are "round," but the husband and the others of the lynch party are "silhouettes," in accord perhaps with the intention of the playwright to establish the generalized environment as a more important actor than the individuals of the lynch party.

Saroyan's language and dialog do not come from a world-trained ear, they come from the heart of a romantic poet. His poetry seems to be made up of about equal parts of his own lyricism, of argo', and of thing's like the remembered line of a song. For whoever would like to study this poetry at its best, I reccmmend the leisurely examination of the third act of *A Decent Birth*, *A Happy Funeral*, and especially the open rhythm which is accentuated in more or less each tenth line with a little gem of lyric argot.

The style of the play is naturalistic only in the melodramatic situation and action. We cannot describe the characters or the other formal elements with the same term. They come from the world, fantastic if the adjective pleases, of Saroyan. The characters are clearly the expression of Saroyan himself and his beliefs, and for that reason symbols; but since love is the principal article in Saroyan's credo we have a symbol so broad and so warm that it is difficult to think of it in the terms of the pastel symbolism we suffer from in the American theatre. Symbolism is a substyle of the romantic current, and it matters little whether Saroyan in Hello Out There is a symbolist: he is always a romantic. If we make up a check list of forms, we see that Hello deviates from the characteristics of the romantic style current only in its contemporaneousness and in the melodramatic structure and physical conflict, all three characteristic of the popular style. The mood is mixed between the romantic internal tumult and the popular social tumult. The rest of the formal characteristics are romantic: theatrical illusion instead of convention, contrasts in rhythm and tempo, idealized sexual longing, a diffuse action arising from an impulse and resolved by a sentiment, contrasting characters from an exotic minority group, a milieu apart from daily life, and lyric and abandoned language.

In a later play, Get Away Old Man. Saroyan mixed the most naturalism with his fantasy and came off with the least success, if it be compared to his first romantic plays or to the one we are studying.

The history of the theatre shows us only slightly similar antecedents for Saroyan's work and, especially, for his extravagance. The situations are similar in spirit to those of the Italian "grotesque theatre." His tone is that of a less combatitive Victor Hugo. His enthusiasm, assurance and love of life are those of a Shakespeare not yet disciplined to form. He has much of his contemporary, Jean Giradoux, minus a bit of intellect and plus some of Rabelais' animal spirits. Among the writers of the primitive episodic novel we find the nearest parallels to Saroyan: his characters come closest to a cross between those of Jean Jacques Rosseau and those of Rabelais, but most of all Le approaches the Shandian world of Uncle Toby and Corporal Trim, with a little bit of Sterne's perversity removed.

Saroyan's themes fall within the romantic tradition. Gagey, with slight sympathy, gives us a panorama of the themes:

Eager as Saroyan is to support the rights of little people, he dislikes both unionsm and communism because of their infringements on individual freedom. Idleness and alcoholism are infinitely more commendable than the sordid practice of selling things for profit, the only reasonable mctive for acquiring wealth is for the pleasure of giving it away. Formal education, particularly in College, spoils man's natural and charming ignorance. Romantic love is a beautiful and infinitely sad emotion. In family relationships, particularly between father and son and between brothers and sisters, is to be found the most tender expression of love, a motif in the plays amounting to a veritable cult of childhood.²²

Even if not completely just, Gagey's observation at least indicates a part of the romantic flavor of the themes. The content of *Hello Out There* is romantic only in its symbolism, the literal meaning is objective. The most prominent symbol is the city of love, San Francisco, reminiscent of the founding of Philadelphia by the Society of Friends and their naming it "the city of brotherly love." But today all this is only a pretty legend in the Philadelphia of Moe Annenberg and the Biddles.

In the use of San Francisco as a symbol Saroyan chooses a truthful one because San Francisco is, among the great American cities, the one in which "more people love somebody." In *Hello Out There*, it is the promised land to which the young man in jail tries to send the girl he loves. For her, there is the suggestion of a happy ending if she manages to get to San Francisco. There is also the suggestion in *Hello* that love might cure what is wrong with the little Texas town. But the playwright says nothing of the curative possibilities of education and economic development, things which San Francisco has in addition to love, because he does not believe in them. The young man in the play says "I'm a gambler. I don't work." Saroyan does not say how to bring love to Matador, Texas, and he suggests only the solution of emigration, a process which as a matter of fact has been taking place in the agricultural areas of Texas for several decades because the small farmers of Anglo-Saxon origin are not so well adapted to compete in the work of the new gigantic commercial agriculture as those of Mexican origin.

The literal meaning of the play is a protest against lynching and in this Saroyan allows Hello to follow the naturalistic truth instead of the romantic one. Lynching is an old American custom which began during the settlement of the West when there was no security because of the absence of a fixed political organization. Lacking formal laws, the sheriffs and town marshalls obeyed the will of the established elements of the community, and sought their support when problems became too large for the "law." Many times the "respectable" elements of the community had no need for the sheriff and effected their own kind of popular rule-of-thumb justice. After the Civil War, the southerners who had lost the war found in lynching a measure for underground resistance against federal occupation troops and for vengeance against the liberated negros who in some states, such as South Carolina, had political control of the legislatures.

Naturally such bitter and impassioned means reflect a kind of pathological confusion. Probably the best concise expression in all of American literature of the feelings of men of conscience who have seen a lynching is that of Langston Hughes in his poem "Song for a Dark Girl."

Way down South in Dixie (Break the heart of me) They hung my black young lover To a cross roads tree.

Way down South in Dixie (Bruised body high in air) I asked the white Lord Jesus What was the use of prayer.

Way down South in Dixie (Break the heart of me) Love is a naked shadow On a gnarled and naked tree.

The only dramatic treatment of lynching which can be compared to that of *Hello Out There* is Paul Green's Pulitzer Prize winning play *In Abraham's Bosom* which was also a commercial success during the 1926-27 Broadway season. The final scenes in which the negro, driven to exhaustion, crawls across the fields with the same emotions and attitudes as those of a hunted animal is almost as powerful a plastic expression of the lynch emotions as Hughes' poem is a lyric one.

From figures given by the World Almanac we see that between 1882 and 1948, 4718 persons were lynched in the United States. From the same figures we see that Saroyan has a certain amount of justification for not specifying that the hero of his play be a negro because during the period mentioned above, 1291 white person were lynched along with 3427 negros. Perhaps Saroyan wished to make a qualitative separation of the lynching problem and the socalled "negro" problem. To the qualitative mentality perhaps they are distinct problems, but quantitatively we see that in the United States lynching has been two-thirds a negro problem. Saroyan also has objective grounds for setting his drama in Texas which has been exceeded only by Mississippi and Georgia in the number of lynchings between 1882 and 1947:

Mississippi	574
Georgia	525
Texas	489

That the noose has become an offensive symbol to even the advocates of white supremacy is apparent in the tendency since the beginning of the second World War for race riots to replace lynchings. More negros have been killed in the present decade in riots than in lynchings. These have occured chiefly in the industrial centers of the North and California, and they reflect two social tendencies: the increasing resistance of the negro to bad treatment, and the important new immigration of poor whites from small towns in the "nigger-hating" South to industrial centers. There are some indications that even the infamous Ku Klux Klan is on its way to extinction now that it has found its way onto the Attorney General's list (strange bedfellows) of "Fascist, Communist, totalitarian and subversive organizations."²³

Hello Out There reflects a greater grasp of social problems than any other of Saroyan's plays. His work has always been marked by fantasy, by generalized love of people and by the advocacy of the brotherhood of man, but he has been criticized by the Left for the vagueness of his sentiments. At other times he has expressed what approaches misanthropy in Get Away Old Man, probably his worst play, although most Americans feel that about Hollywood a writer may be as negative and as bitter as he wishes to be. Again, Saroyan's faith in people reached the same low ebb as Shakespeare's in Hamlet when Saroyan wrote his unsympathetic caricature of the "Okies" in Love's Old Sweet Song. This petty answer to fellow Californian Steinbeck's great social documentary provides the grounds for the most serious questioning of Saroyan's humanistic attitudes. The present writer is inclined to consider Love's Old Sweet Song a temporary lapse in Saroyan's good will toward men.

It is almost as impossible to generalize about Saroyan's manner of thinking as it is about his style of writing. Both are contradictory but still remain within the romantic current, particularly his attitudes: protest and fantasy, imagination, originality, the reformer's zeal, a widening human horizon, contradiction of himself and the status quo, a mysticism based on love, reflection of an unstable society marked by internal conflict, solitude, individualism, Christianity, selfconsciousness, a passionate morality, and a historical, although limited, point of view. All are romantic. For better or for worse he is the youth of the summer sun and the irrigation canals of the San Joaquin Valley and of the solitary rooms and smile-ridden streets of San Francisco.

In Hello Out There Saroyan shows the hopeful confidence characteristic of him. In an ugly and violent situation he gives us a hope, in the girl, that she can be saved from the blind hates of her town. Perhaps in the hero, too, there are suggestions of a Christ image which make his death seem a less negative conclusion for the play. We have here a typical Saroyan premise: a young man full of love brings the certainty of love to a girl richly on the verge of it, although he is killed. In the Saroyan logic this is not a particularly pessimistic conclusion.

The importance of *Hello Out There* in our time has had one limitation, the commercial one inherent in the one-act play form. It has been presented hundreds of times in the non-commercial theatre and has attracted the attention of the critics despite the fact that it could not become a commercial success. It is the most powerful contemporary dramatic essay on lynching and it is a better play than Sartre's *Respectable Prostitute* in every way except for the public's failure to appreciate Saroyan's romantic characters. It is Saroyan's most important social protest, although in some future time his *Sam Ego's House* may be accepted as a protest. Saroyan speaks in his preface to the latter play of the critics' labels of "Communistic," but the story of the trip of a house across the town seems to dissolve in an allegorical vastness.

There is no league between the naturalistic one-act form and the romantic characterization of people confronted with lynching which would indicate a formcontent equilibrium which will serve American theatre historians as an archetype. The reason probably is that Saroyan was caught up in external events and was not quite his normal subjective self when he made his only essay in the social protest drama. Paul Green showed a similar personal contradiction in the lack of formcontent equilibrium in *In Abraham's Bosom*, and the great dramatic social protest against lynching remains still to be written in the United States.

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¹ Allardyce Nicoll, World Drama: from Aeschylus to Anouilh. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. 1950). p. 900.

² John Gassner, Best Plays of the Modern American Theatre: Second Series. (New York: Crown Publishers. c1947). p. xxvii.

³ John Howard Lawson, *Theory and Technique of Playwriting and Screenwriting*. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons c1936, c1949). pp. 276f., 280ff.

The most useful simple test for the logical progression of a dramatic action is William T. Price's "proposition." It is most valid in the criticism of plays in the classic and popular styles. For the plays studied here, most of them in the romantic style, the test does not often reveal a logically tight action. Price describes very concisely his proposition. "A dramatic Proposition is the brief logical statement or syllogism of that which has to be demonstrated by the Complete Action of the play. Its simplest and perhaps its universal form, so far as I have been able to discover, is a statement in three clauses: first, the conditions of the Action; second, the cause of the Action; third, the result of the Action. The third clause involves the problem and may be put as a problem." Cited in Barrett H. Clark, European Theories of the Drama: with a Supplement on the American Drama (New York: Crown Tublishers. Revised Edition. c1947), p. 487.

⁵ A useful supplement to Price's proposition would be a classification of the situations which produce the action. Such is the pretension, but unfortunately the pretension cannot be sustained, in George Polit's *The Thirty-Six Dramatic Situations*. (Boston: The Writer, Inc. Reprinted 1948). Polit's "situations" really state conflicts at their peaks, and it is evident that the possible number of conflicts is closer to 37,000. However it is clear that Polit's situations do have to do with action, and action is the heart of a play. In lieu of another classification of actions, and because a goodly number of American commercial writers do consult Polti, I shall give for each of the plays studied here its corresponding Polti situation. The classification was clearly intended originally to be applied to plays in the classic style containing a single action with beginning, middle and end. The romantic protest play usually partakes of several of Polti's situations. For *Deep Are the Roots* they are number 8B1, the revolt of one individual who influences and involves others, and number 28B, very secondarily, a marriage prevented by enemies and contingent obstacles.

" Nicoll, op. cit. p. 900.

⁷ Edward Morgan Forster, Aspects of the Novel. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. c1927) classifies characters as "flat" or "round," two-dimensional or three-dimensional. Rodolfo Usigli, the foremost Mexican dramatist, in his *ltinerario del Autor Dramatico* (México, D. F.: I a Casa de España en México. 1940) adds a third category: "characters, the most difficult because they correspond to individual and singular human values; *types*, which are the representatives of groups, classes, nations, etc., or *silbowetts*, for the cases in which no psychological or generic movement of character enters into play." p. 13.

⁸ Gassner, op. cit. p. 598.

^o Bernard Sobel, *The Theatre Handbook and Digest of Plays.* (New York: Crown Publishers. 1948). p. 478.

- ¹⁰ Usigli, op. cit. p. 82.
- " Gassner, op. cit. p. xxvii.
- ¹² Idem.

¹³ Gene Sosin, "Art for Marx' Sake" in *Theatre Arts*, vol. xxxiv, no. 2. February, 1950. "The atmosphere of post-war nationalism and anti-American feeling is mirrored in plays for young audiences: 'Snowball' takes place in an American high school. It deals with the persecution of a Negro boy (nicknamed 'Snowball') by a fat, cigar-smoking millionaire who dislikes having his daughter attend the same classes with Negroes." p. 31.

¹⁴ Gassner, op. cit. p. xxvii.

¹⁵ Michael Straight (Ed.), *The AVC Bulletin*: American Veterans Committee, Inc., vol. vi, no. 1, January, 19,1. "TEXT

OF NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON ARMY SEGREGATION. On September 30, 1949, the President of the United States in his capacity as Commanderin-Chief ordered the integration of all white and non-white troops in the Armed Forces. The Navy and the Air Force appear to have carried out the order of the Commander-in-Chief. The Army, however, has failed to do so. Although basic training in the Army of the United States is apparently conducted on both a segregated and non-segregated basis, unit activation follows the customary Jim Crow policy which was the source of difficulty, confusion and disgrace in World War II. Recent reports of racial segregation of inductees from states like Minnesota, which have prohibited racial segregation in their state National Guard units, demonstrates that the Army is in fact spreading and extending the racist doctrines..." p. 7.

¹⁶ Burns Mantle, *The Best Plays of* 1945-46: and the Year Book of the Drama in America. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company. 1946). p. vi.

¹⁷ Gassner, op. cit. p. xxvii.

¹⁸ Nicoll, op. cit. p. 900.

¹⁹ Theatre Arts. vol. xxxiv, no. 12. December, 1950. p. 14.

²⁰ Among others, Edmond M. Gagey, *Revolution in American Drama.* (New York: Columbia University Press. Second printing 1948). p. 112.

²¹ Of Polti's 36 situations, *Hello Out There* shares in three: number 6C2, suffering an unjust punishment or enmity; 7D, the unfortunate robbed of their only hope; and 27B8, the discovery that one's wife is a scoundrel or a bad character.

²² Gagey, op. cit. p. 118.

²³ But General George Van Horn Mosely continues his active and prosperous career according to *The AVC Balletin*, *op. cit.*, vol. vi, no. 1. "ATLANTA CHAPTER (Ga.)... The chapter is endeavoring to have Piedmont College turn down an offer similar to the Jefferson Military College episode. The same George Armstrong with General George Van Horn Mosely is trying to "buy" this college on the condition it teach race supremacy ideas. The chapter has denounced Armstrong and Mosely for trying to establish a beachhead for totalitarianism." p. 7.

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WAR AND WAR PROFITEERING

Bury the Dead

Born Yesterday

THE GROUP of plays to be considered in this chapter is the rather large one against war, and it may be divided into two parts: the general anti-war protests, and the protests against war profiteers. The first includes Edna St. Vincent Millay's Aria Da Capo, presented by the Provincetown Players in 1919; What Price Glory? by Maxwell Anderson and Laurence Stallings, produced by Arthur Hopkins in 1924; Peace on Earth by George Sklar and Albert Maltz, staged by Theatre Union in 1933; Sidney Howard's Paths of Glory, produced commercially with little success in 1935; the musical by Paul Green, Johnny Johnson, presented with Kurt Weill's music by Group Theatre in 1936; and Bury the Dead by Irwin Shaw, staged by Actors Repertory Company in 1936. Also worthy of mention for their artistic excellence are the poetic anti-war plays for radio by Archibald MacLeish.

Those which protest against the exploitation by civilians in wartime are *Born Yesterday* by Garson Kanin, presented in 1946 by Max Gordon, and Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*, produced by Harold Clurman, Elia Kazan and Walter Fried in 1947. The latter play received the Critics Circle Award for the same year

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(The Pulitzer Prize judges refused to select a winning play for 1947).

Although other plays of a lesser artistic category might be included, the above are the most important. Not all of them are of the same dramatic quality, and, in the opinion of the writer, the best general antiwar protest is *Bury the Dead*, and the best study of the abuses of the "rugged individualists" during a war is to be found in *Born Yesterday*. Both will be studied in detail in this chapter.

For this writer Bury the Dead had a real and immediate importance when he began rehearsing it with a university theatre group directed by Fernando Wagner just a few weeks after the beginning of fighting between American and North-Korean troops, June 25, 1950. The first impression of the play was of the ugly and the horrible, carrying along with them their own aesthetics and artistic unity. For the American whose appreciation of the ugly and the horrible stops with Edgar Allen Poe, the emotional reaction to the play is limited to a chill up the spine not clearly defined as to whether it is pleasant or not.¹

Another reaction was a feeling of hope that the people have the power to undo the militarists; another was an awareness of the mixture of humor, subtle in the midst of all the horrible, which contradicts the judgment of Atkinson of the "bitterness" ^a of Bury the Dead. A third immediate impression is that the work is for the theatre; it is not a literary one to be appreciated in the library.

A first formal analysis reveals that *Bury the Dead* is a one-act drama in 20 episodes with less of "problem" or "thesis" than of protest and a call to direct action.

Episode 1: On a battlefield. Soldiers, directed by a sergeant, are digging graves for the dead. The soldiers

want to finish the burials quickly because of the unpleasant odor of the corpses, but they must wait for the services to be read by the chaplains, a priest and a rabbi. As the prayers are said, one of the soldiers hears a groan and soon all of the corpses stand up and ask not to be buried. The sergeant goes for the captain, who says he "was expecting it to happen—some day. So many men each day."

Episode 2: The captain is seen attempting to explain the situation to three generals. They decide he has been drinking and order a doctor, along with a stenographer, to inspect the corpses, to determine whether they are dead or alive, and to make official medical reports.

Episode 3: The doctor determines the cause of death of each corpse and notes that each has been dead 48 hours. Witnesses sign the six reports. One of the corpses gives one of the soldiers of the burial detail a cigarette, and the doctor gladly accepts a drink when the captain offers it from his bottle.

Episode 4: The doctor reports to the generals that all six men are dead but that they are standing in the grave refusing to be buried. On hearing this report, one of the generals decides "the whole damn army is drunk!" They caution each other not to let this get out to the newspapers.

Episode 5: Two soldiers in the lines discuss the rumor that six corpses will not allow themselves to be buried. They disagree as to what should be done with them, and a burst of enemy machine-gun fire kills one of them, then the other.

Episode 6: In a newspaper office. A reporter insists that the story be published, but his editor, after a telephone call, suppresses it because "that's the way the Government feels about it."

Episode 7: The generals arrive at the grave. One of them attempts to convince the corpses that they

are dead, and being ignored he then gives them a direct order to allow themselves to be buried. This is also ignored.

Episode 8: On a street corner. One prostitute tells another, "I'd lay 'em, all right. They ought to call me in. I'd lay 'em...Share the burden—Oh, my Gawd." Their laughter continues in the darkness.

Episode 8: The captain, sent by the generals, tries once more, using a sympathetic philosophical approach, to persuade the men to be buried. Each tells how he died and ignores the captain's entreaties.

Episode 10: A montage of the "home front." Businessmen, a priest, one of the generals, newspapermen and a radio announcer are all dismayed that their "brave dead boys" will not allow themselves to be buried.

Episode 11: The captain suggests to the generals that they send for the dead soldiers' women. "Women are always conservative. It's a conservative notion—this one of lying down and allowing yourself to be buried when you're dead." The War Department issues an appeal to the women by radio.

Episode 12: A general addresses the women, "talk to them...make them see the error of their ways, ladies...Go ladies, do your duty. Your country waits upon you..."

Episode 13: Private John Schelling, Corpse Two, tells his wife, "My place is on the earth, Bess. My business is with the top of the earth, not the underside." When she insists that he allow himself to be buried, he tells her, "Go home, Bess. Go home!"

Episode 14: Joan wants to know of Private Levy, Corpse Five, whether he really loved her more than the others, but he thinks the point no longer important. He wants to "walk the world looking at the fine longlegged girls, seeing in them something deep and true and passionately vital..." Episode 15: Private Morgan, Corpse Four, tells Julia Blake, "There are too many books I haven't read, too many places I haven't seen, too many memories I haven't kept long enough...I won't be cheated of them..." She shoots herself so that her name may be on the casualty lists, too, rather than go on drinking and living without him.

Episode 16: Tom Driscoll, Corpse One, hears the sister he has not seen for 15 years say, "You're dead. Your fight's over," and he answers, "The fight's never over. I got things to say to people now—to the people who nurse big machines and the people who swing shovels and the people whose babies die with big bellies and rotten bones. I got things to say to the people who leave their lives behind them and pick up guns to fight in somebody else's war. Important things. Big things..."

Episode 17: Private Dean, Corpse Six, tells his mother, "I spent twenty years practicing to be a man and then they killed me."

Episode 18: The wife of Private Webster, Corpse Three, condemns him for waiting until he is dead to stand up for his rights, for not having stood up for his wife and the children he could not have on a wage of \$18.50 a week.

Episode 19: Now that all of the corpses have refused to lie down, the generals try in vain to keep the news from appearing in the papers, but the headlines scre2m, "It Didn't Work." In a six-part montage, voices of the people dispute what the corpses have done, and the church, represented by a priest, attempts what the state failed to do, but the corpses laugh and do not lie down.

Episode 20: One of the generals orders the corpses to be shot down with a machine gun, but the soldiers refuse to man the gun. He has to do it himself, but the corpses walk out of the grave in the face of the machine-gun fire. They walk off stage, followed by the still living soldiers and leaving the general slumped over his silent gun pointed at the empty grave.

The movement of the action is in rapid tempo, "journalistic," ^a except in the six scenes with the women, which have various independent tempos derived from the sexual interest: lethargic between Bess and Schelling, blasé between Joan and Levy, frustrated between Webster and his wife, etc. There is a heightening of several of these scenes as a result of the sex wit lines. The rhythm is brusque, "staccato," ⁴ and it gives a suggestion of wide spaces.

The structure is that of an "envelope" to begin and end the play and to enclose the scenes of the women and the montages which are further unified by a "spot technique." ⁵ The general effect is panoramic, almost cinematic.

The logic of the action, ⁶ following Price's proposition, is somewhat weak, but it doesn't result in a weak play:

A. Dead soldiers do not wish to be buried and reject the military authorities who wish to avoid scandal and use persuasion instead of brute force.

B. The authorities send for the soldiers' women to come and exercise their persuasive conservative force, but the women fail.

C. The corpses pay no attention to a general's machinegun and leave the stage to raise the people in rebellion against war.

The internal line of action is stronger than the exterior one, and they lack the equilibrium that marks *Waiting for Lefty*, a protest play which uses a nearly identical technique and structure. *Bury the Dead* tries to achieve through mood and pictorial quality what

Lefty achieved through a passionate and contagious conviction. And where Lefty is romantically social, Bury the Dead is romantically brooding, almost individualistic and introspective. Bury the Dead and Hello Out There have the most dominant inner lines of action, and are the most romantic, of any of the seven plays we shall study.

The text carries the following directions for the time and the place: time, "the second year of the war that is to begin tomorrow night" (in the dialog the year 1937 is mentioned); place, a torn-over battlefield, now quiet, some miles behind the present lines, which is represented at the rear of the stage by a raised black platform with sandbags thrown along its edge. The forestage is bare, and the inset scenes occur there. The specific place for the action is not established. Europe? The United States?

The lighting contributes more than the scenery to the definition of space. The chief concrete atmosphere is of mud, the lighting is muddy, the dialog mentions the mud, on stage there are heaps of earth, the sandbags are dirty, the platform is black. To accompany the mud, less concretely, there is the smell of rotting bodies, established through suggestions in the dialog. It is an environment which takes a full part in the action. Everything is ugly and horrible, everything contradicts the previous "good things of the earth" of which the characters speak in the six intercalated scenes.

The characters are divided into two groups and receive two different treatments. The corpses, the captain, the burying detail, Bess Schelling, and, to a certain point, the sergeant, are "positive," warm and human. They are loved for their faults. But the institutional characters, the generals, the politicians, the ministers of the church, the newspapermen, and some of the women, are "negative" and are treated as bidimensional types. Some are almost caricatures which fall short of being real persons.

As for its historical theatre substyle, the work is called "expressionistic" ⁷ by Gassner, "semiexpressionistic...fantasy with the appearance of realism" ⁸ by O'Hara, and "an allegory" ⁹ by Gorelik, but only the montage episodes are expressionistic in form. Symbolism, the substyle still dominant in the contemporary American theatre, seems the best descriptive term to the present writer, and Gorelik probably meant to say "symbolism" with his term "allegory." The style like all romantic styles, is based more on illusion than on theatrical conventions, although the blackout technique deserves more study as a contemporary theatrical convention in its two uses for time and place and in the melancholy suggestion it often carries with it: ¹⁹

The style of *Bury the Dead*, Shaw's first play, is better defined and unified than in his other work. The same symbolism and the same protest drama genre are found in his *The Gentle People*, but there they are beclouded by the addition of the Franciscan touch to the plot of the two moralist assassins. The remainder of his plays evidence the dangerous tendency in the American theatre toward haziness in the symbolist style, especially when dealing with situations in the day to day bourgeois life. The work of Clifford Odets, Maxwell Anderson and Arthur Miller also shows this tendency.

The dialog does not carry a personal stamp of the playwright except in the "lyric" passages where it is completely his and a little bit forced. The rest of the writing is good prose, natural to the characters—which is not to say that it is the language of the streets. It is the forceful speech of ordinary people in one of the few crises in which they are deeply angered or outraged. It is the eloquence of protest of which every man is capable and which is given to him to express few times during a lifetime.

The "lyric" passages demonstrate many defects similar to those of Tennessee Williams. Working in symbolism, the style is broken by these lyric and personal digressions on the part of the dramatist which superficial reviewers admire as "poetry," and which even a critic like Gassner often calls "fantasy." " This widespread mark of critical disorientation among critics and playwrights alike has its probable source in too much reading of the polemicists, headed by Maxwell Anderson, for a "poetic theatre," in too much Shakespeare imitation, in too much study of argot, and in too little study of the contemporary dramatic poems of Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost and Archibald Mac-Leish.

To a great extent, the symbolistic style of *Bary the Dead* is a good illustration of Granville-Barker's theory of the "exemplary theatre," propagated in the United States by Ludwig Lewisohn. It does not arrive at the economy of means of the popular style current in the contemporary social theatre, Brecht's epic plays and Oriental fables, nor at their conventions; it follows Granville-Barker's complete acceptance of theatrical illusion.

The strongest emotions in *Bury the Dead* (the ugly, the horrible and the humorous) seem to grow from the milieu and the dialog, and less from the characterization and the action (the hope for the people's moral victory over the militarists).

We find three antecedents in the history of the theatre for the theme, the structure and the plot used: (1) The general theme of the anti-war protest is ancient,

Aristophanes' Lysistrata being a good example. (2) The envelope structure to begin and end the action and to contain the internal spot scenes is the same as that of Clifford Odets' Waiting for Lefty (and similar to that adapted by José Limón to the choreographies of "La Malinche" and "The History of Mankind," presented in Mexico City late in September, 1950). It is also that of many of Walt Whitman's poems. It should perhaps be considered as akin to the "play within a play" structure used by Shakespeare, among others. The name of the Bard brings to mind The Taming of the Shrew which certainly includes the opening half of an envelope structure in the texts we know. The dramatic logic which demands another Christopher Sly scene at the end of the play is so compelling (some producers have fabricated such a closing scene) that one feels tempted to conjecture that the great showman from Avon would not have left it unwritten and that the final Sly episode must have been lost in the vicissitudes of transporting Shakespeare's work from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. (3) A final antecedent is that for the plot which is very similar to that of the Austrian Hans Schlumberg's The Miracle at Verdun. 12 It is true that the two plays have the same basic situation: dead soldiers refuse to be buried and cause an international scandal. The two resolutions of this situation, however, are completely different. In Schlumberg's play, the protagonist awakes to discover that all has been a dream-much as Sly would, one supposes-but Shaw uses the situation for a revolutionary call to direct action.

With a theme from Aristophanes and a situation from Schlumberg, Shaw shows his greatest originality in selecting and taking over the structure of Odets' play of the previous year, a form which is the best adapted to date in the American theatre to the social drama.¹³ Bury the Dead using the same structure as Waiting for Lefty even excells it in harmonious succession of the scenes, but Shaw's play lacks the "recognition" and the urgency which Odets ardently gave to Lefty.

A dramatic interpretation which is symbolistic in technique and unified in style does not give very much emphasis to particular symbols it might contain. It is enough to mention the powerful internal symbols in Chekov's Seagull or The Cherry Orchard which occur in a non-symbolistic style. These plays are not symbols in themselves, therefore the individual symbols within the plays are very strong. On the contrary, in completely symbolist plays such as Maxwell Anderson's Winterset or Edna St. Vincent Millay's Aria Da Capo it would be exaggerated and ridiculous to fill the play with detailed symbols. Bury the Dead, as a symbol complete in itself, shares this lack of minor symbols, except in the case of the final curtain.

The entire conception of the play is one of resistance against war but its conclusion is even more frankly revolutionary. It incites to immediate action and to a popular rebel movement when on the stage the dead soldiers leave, on their way to the people, with the live soldiers of the burying detail following them. The last of them flicks his cigarette butt at the crumpled general who had turned the machine gun on them.

The revolutionary exhortation has more symbolic than literal meaning, as is natural since Shaw, at his best, was a very theoretical revolutionary.

It is difficult to agree with Krutch when he says "the first 20 minutes present the most interesting part of the whole play." ¹⁴ The symbolic ending is the principal difference which distinguishes Bury the Dead from the earlier anti-war drama of Sidney Howard, Paths of Glory, 1935, and it is this revolutionary appeal which makes Bury the Dead last on the boards while Howard's play is no longer presented.

The literal meaning is more obvious: it is anti-war, anti-militarist and it says, "enjoy the good things of the earth during many years." In addition it gives the hope of a moral victory for the people over the militarists. Other suggested meanings are of the stupidity, brutality and uselessness of high military officials.

What is the background from contemporary history which explains such a hard attack upon the militarists? While the Briand-Kellogg Pact of August 27,1928, to outlaw war still expressed perfectly the sentiments of the American people, the Japanese invaded Manchuria in September, 1931, after the "Mukden incident" and a year later set up the puppet state of Manchukuo.

Various Americans of national importance argued for a "prophylactic war" to remove the Japanese from China, but the people did not wish more than to morally condemn Japan. Between October, 1935, and May, 1936, Mussolini conquered Ethiopia, and on March 7, 1936, Hitler won his first military gamble in the Ruhr. In November, 1935, Maxim Litvinoff and Anthony Eden's fight in the League of Nations for action against Italy died without popular support, which was limited to the customary moral condemnation. Nobody wanted preventive wars.

The American people after having fought in the first World War to "save democracy," saw it lost in the United States with the public violence of the veterans of the American Legion and with the irresponsible massacres of the National Guards under the orders of provincial politicians on the capitalist payroll. ¹⁵ The people did not want to fight in a second "war to end all wars." The writer of this study recalls beginning in September, 1935, as a freshman in a California high school where in many of the classrooms the teachers had placed large posters illustrative of the useless and anti-social costs of the first World War.

This was the moral climate, then, in which Shaw wrote *Bury the Dead*: pacifism and moral condemnation of international aggressors. The immediate occasion for writing the play we know was a contest patronized by a leftist theatre group.³⁰

But times change, rapidly.

The leftists, who were an important segment of American pacifism, after the beginning of Franco's war in Spain and the full-scale Japanese attack on China after July, 1937, arrived at the end of their patience, and of their pacifism. They changed their position to insist on worldwide, militant antifascism. The "intellectual pacifists" of the universities, now faced with the clear symptoms of the second World War which was to begin within three years, also retreated from their pacifist position and argued for "neutrality" and isolation. Bury the Dead was caught in the middle of these changes. A few months previously it had received the applause of the entire left; after Franco it was an embarrassment. The play was closed while those of Odets continued their triumph in the important leftist theatre.

In the same complaisant manner that Shaw agreed to the closing of his play, he was also ready to follow the new Communist line of antifascism. The results of this effort appeared in 1939 in the fantasy, *The Gentle People*, about two lovable old men who kill a mobster and throw his body in the sea when they can think of no other means to rid themselves of his threats. Naturally, this play was also "embarrassing" during the short existence of the Hitler-Stalin pact. The writer of this study cannot include Shaw in the general pardon which Gagey extends to the pacifist dramatists:

The leftist writers held out as long as possible for pacifism, since this was one of the cardinal tenets in their propaganda directed at American youth, but sooner or later events forced all dramatists to reverse their position on war.¹⁷

Among the multitude there is no cover for Shaw because he has been a turncoat, not once, but three times. After authorizing the retirement of *Bury the Dead* for the second World War, he looked with favor once more upon its presentation during the postwar period. After the Korean episode began, he once again prohibited its production, this time in a public statement:

Recently Mr. Shaw directed his agents to refuse permission to present *Bury the Dead*. In a letter to the drama editor of the *New York Times*, Mr. Shaw explained why he withdrew his peace play from possible production.

"...Bury the Dead...was a play which expressed the passionate revulsion against the horrors of war and the fear of another war which was so much a part of the emotional climate of the Nineteen Thirties, a revulsion which was reflected in such other anti-war plays of the time as Idiot's Delight, Ten Million Ghosts, and Johnny Johnson.

"It also reflected a belief, which now seems impossibly naive, that by appealing to reason and sentiment war might be forever halted. Since then we have been forced into one war by men in Germany and Japan who clearly demonstrated their immunity to reason and sentiment. As a soldier I saw enough of the agony of war to make my original revulsion stronger than ever, Putting on my civilian clothes once more, I put on again my civilian belief in the possibility of peace through reason and sentiment.

"Now five years later, the rulers of Russia have demonstrated that the gentle hopes of 1950 are as naive as they were in 1935. Invading, killing, destroying, they proclaim with monstruous cynicism that they are the supporters of world-wide peace. In a spectacle of complete moral corruption, their adherents in this country wave peace pledges and petitions while Communist guns are killing American soldiers.

"It is to balk these double-tongued gentlemen, with whatever small means are at my disposal, that I have withdrawn my play. I do not wish the forlorn longings and illusions of 1935 to be used as ammunition for the killers of 1950. I still hope passionately for peace—but not peace that is selective, and divisible at will, not peace that is a political slogan and a military instrument, but peace that is real, general, and complete. ¹⁶

We could deduce that Shaw wishes "all or nothing at all" in the way of peace, that if there is a regional war, we must turn it into a world war. Or could we deduce that Shaw believes there is a time and place for everything? He once accused the critics of a political viewpoint which "seems to be an amorphous liberalism" ³⁰ and now finds himself condemned on his own charge.

If Bury the Dead was revolutionary pacifism, The Gentle People was revolutionary advocacy of a franciscan type of war. Shaw's later plays were moderate social drama and personal reminiscences of the disintegration of the bourgeois life of his childhood. Between 1936 and 1939, corresponding to the age 22-25 of the playwright, Shaw held "radical" ideas, and then began moderating them and reconciling himself with his previous middle class background, He was young and something of an opportunist. Such a pattern is usual among writers who go from school to writing without ever having done anything else, especially those who stay too long in Hollywood or with the national broadcasting chains. Burns Mantle gives us a few facts about Shaw's life before 1936:

Young Mr. Shaw...lives in Brooklyn, though he was born in Manhattan... He had been writing radio scripts for a detective story continuity when the radio scouts found him and sent him to Hollywood. In picture land he has been doing football stories, having played football when he was a student at Brooklyn College. His early ambition, insofar as it was associated with the theatre, he relates was "to be polite, polished and luxuriantly idle, and to write that kind of play, none of which things has been vouchsafed me."²⁰

So Shaw's season in the social theatre was an aberration, and now he has returned to the place from which he came.

Along with the change in the content of Shaw's plays, it is interesting to observe the degeneration of their artistic quality. Here is Shaw's list of failures after Bury the Dead: Siege, 1937; The Quiet City; The Golden Years; Retreat to Pleasure; Sons and Soldiers, 1943; and The Assassins, 1945.

In synthesis then, what was and is the importance of Bury the Dead? It was an artistic success. It had a sizeable influence in American politics. It was a succes de scandale; it was an embarrassment to the then militant left, previously allied with the pacifists. It was of the climate which produced the Johnson Act and American neutrality toward Spain. Since 1936 it has been presented several hundred times in university and community theatres in the United States.^m

Was it an effective protest? If the effective protest is that which expresses the conscience, the sentiments and the hopes of the people, *Bury the Dead* was effective between 1936 and 1939. It also was effective during the war if we admit that a popular song expresses the temper of the people. The two principal themes of the play, not wishing to die as a soldier and wishing to enjoy the good things of the earth, are found, half seriously, half in jest, in a song of British and American soldiers during the second World War:

I don't want to join your f-----ing army I don't want to go away to war I'd rather stay at home, my bloody f------ing home A' living off the earnings of my whore, God bless her. I don't want to join your f------ing army I don't want my buttocks shot away I'd rather be a blighty, a blooming f------ing blighty,

So I could f- my bloody life away.

Yes, it was an effective protest, and it is even more so today because peace is no longer merely "a fine principle of men of good will." It is a necessity, in the opinion of many, in order to avoid total extermination. Now that the atomic bomb is a world problem, Bury the Dead has a world-wide meaning. If it continues in its present position of being one of the best serious pacifist pieces, as it is in this writer's opinion, it may be staged in many parts of the world for a long time to come. For Mexico and Latin America the problem of peace, and plays like Bury the Dead, has a transcendental importance if "the United States' wars are the continent's wars," as various "panamericans" try to tell us. On Sept. 18, 1950, the President of the United States presented to the Congress of his country a "defense blueprint" which includes the support of Mexico and Canada. But since that time, Mexico's Assistant Foreign Minister Tello has won the respect of the hemisphere by insisting that Latin-American troops be used only for hemisphere defense and not for the United States' cjuarrels at all four corners of the earth. Despite his committments to fight in support of reactionary cheiftans and European colonial powers anywhere on the Asiatic periphery, the President of the United States shows us with his recall of MacArthur that he hesitates to provoke a third World War immediately. But Chinese, Korean, American, French, Turkish and British Dominion soldiers continue to die in a Korean war which nobody wants to accelerate and which nobody is willing to stop.

Shaw is right, it is an inapt time for a good pacifist play.

During the 1930's while the pacifists' abstract enemy was war, their particular and personal phobia was the munitions makers. It was the time of the exposure of the deals among the Vickers, the Schneiders and the Krupps in the first World War, and sensational writers such as George Seldes [™] were shoutting the slogan, "merchants of death." At that time, before a long and costly radio advertising campagn, "100 percent American," had through sheer aural exhaustion carried its point that "DuPont means better things through chemistry," the name of the Delaware powder makers had the same effect on a pacifist that a red cape has on a bull. The play, Peace on Earth, reflects the peak of the feeling against the munitions makers, as does the topical-political song by L. E. Swift, There Are Three Brothers, sung in the form of a lively, ironic, three-part round:

There are three brothers named DuPont. Patriots are they. They make their profits from munitions in an honest way. They love their country right or wrong. But when yen or liras come along

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They always very cheerfully to any nation sell Shells that will all armor pierce and armor that will stop each shell.

Gradually, as DuPont took over credit from the silkworm for making the American woman's legs what they were, the rabidness against the death merchants metamorphosed into a new antipathy toward a more generalized group which came to have the name of the "war profiteers." Such a change demonstrates a certain intuitive perspicacity in the people because, ever since the days of the American Civil War and the later operations of the U. S. cavalry against the Indians in the Southwest, shrewd business men have known, as Argentina knows today, that there is as much money to be made in beef contracts as in supplying munitions.

By the time the Lend-Lease Act had forecast the participation of the United States in World War II and had demonstrated through fancy wages how much the holders of "defense contracts" must have been making, the spotlight had been taken over by the new villain, the war profiteer. And by the time the war was over, Garson Kanin had written in *Born Yesterday* the delightful study of one of the villains who had made his pile in a very humble way, in the junkyards.

The writer of this study came to know the big junk man in Gassner's anthology of the best plays of the war period, ³³ and fortunately for the reader, *Born Yesterday* is the modest kind of comedy which doesn't need all the accoutrements of the stage to earn its laughs. In fact, such dialog often may be better read than heard chewed by the actors. The reading was enough to provoke the repeated recommendation, "the best American comedy since the war began."

Such a eulogy is not a superlative because the



American comedy in recent years has not been in a very happy condition. At least two intelligent critics, O' Hara and Eleanor Flexner, have each dedicated a quarter of a volume to the lamentation that the contemporary comedy, despite certain graces, has lacked the essential, that of being funny. It is all very well that the American theatre has taken itself as seriously as it has, but every important theatre has always had "comedy too." Perhaps the greatest laugh detergent in the United States has been the strain of subjectivity in certain young playwrights who are apt to give too much importance to the exquisiteness of their innermost feelings. Another has been the discovery that, if there is enough color in the set, and enough music and enough legs in the show, it can get along at the box office without laughs, or, at most, with a single vaudeville clown brought out of retirement for one of the skits.

Born Yesterday is funny, and that must be the reason it seems outstanding in the postwar comedy. Harry Brock is funny when he threatens to send the Senator back to the YMCA, and breathtakingly ignorant Billie Dawn is funny when she tells Harry he's "not couth." The dialog is funny, but the best lines and scenes are built on "the humor of character." The warmest response to the play comes from the junk man and his girl's being, not witty, but just what they are.

The genre is that of the comedy of manners, primarily because the playwright doesn't bother to make Harry Brock a villain; he *assumes* just as the melodramatist does that the audience will all be against Harry. In melodrama the villain whom everyone hates from the first has a *scene a faire* in which he plays his crookedest card and is run off. Harry never gets much of a chance to play the skunk; he just gets done in by the girl. It serves him right, but we have not seen why. His scoundrelry on stage is minor, so it must have been something he did before the curtain went up.

This wide assumption by the playwright is what limits the protest element of the play. If the assumption is correct, it indicates a very hopeful social awareness in the American people, who, evidently, are fully capable of putting such war profiteers in their place, which is somewhere outside of society. But perhaps the playwright assumed too much if few persons in the audience felt, as Atkinson did, the "social hostility of the character." 24 As long as the audience reaction is divided and only one reviewer felt Harry's hostility, we must give the play two genres: the comedy of manners, and the social protest play. The playwright's intention does not determine the genre; Moliere, when he wrote The Misanthrope, as a comedy of manners, had no idea that in the twentieth century it would be accepted as a protest-against the human race.

Born Yesterday is divided into three acts, and the action takes place in the sitting room of a large and expensive suite in a hotel in Washington, D. C.

ACT ONE: The maid is cleaning as Paul Verral, a writer for New Republic, arrives looking for Harry Brock, who is to occupy the suite. The latter enters, preceded by a bellboy and Eddie Brock, a cousin and servant, and accompanied by the Assistant Manager of the hotel and by Billie Dawn, "breathtakingly beautiful and breathtakingly stupid." Ed Devery, Brock's lawyer who was once destined for greatness but now is only Brock's lawyer, comes in a little drunk as always and tells Brock he should let Verral have an interview. Brock does so in the midst of being shaved, manicured, etc. He boasts of his childhood days, of his start in the junk business which has made him a millionaire. Devery gets Billie's signature on some papers about which she knows nothing. He and Brock keep her from drinking and request that she wear her most dignified dress because Senator Hedges and his wife are coming.

Brock and the Senator speak of deals for Harry in return for his helping the Senator. Billie's few comments are irrelevant or, at least, unconscious, and Devery manages to cover up for her. After the Hedges have gone, Brock and Devery talk about what can be done about Billie, and they decide to ask Paul Verral if he would be willing to teach her a few things. He consents gladly and she agrees to the proposal because she "had a yen for him right off." After she beats Brock soundly at gin rummy and he leaves to go to bed, Paul returns with the morning papers for her to read and some books for her to begin her studies. She says her eyes are not very good and he asks her why she does not wear glasses. She replies that they look terrible, and then she notices that he wears them, but after they kiss she recovers with "Of course, they're not so bad on men."

ACT TWO: Two months later, a changed room. A desk, a Capehart, books, magazines and records have been added. Billie, wearing glasses, is reading a newspaper, marking the points about which she must ask Paul who soon enters. They discuss her "cultural activities" and his dislike for Harry and what he stands for. She is beginning to understand this dislike. When Harry comes in, he parries Billie's "intellectual" questions with others about the things he knows. After Paul leaves, she asks Brock to explain the business they are in together, but he informs her that she is no more than a *silent* partner. Senator Hedges and Devery come to tell Brock that the Senator's amendment, which will allow Brock to take over World War II junk in Europe with no government interference, is going to take longer and cost more than they had anticipated. Brock leaves in a rage. Devery asks for Billie's usual signatures on some papers, but he refuses to answer her questions about their contents, and she refuses to sign them until she has looked them over. Brock enters, they argue, but he forces her to sign the papers. When she begins to cry, he tells her to get out of the house, and she leaves.

ACT THREE: Later that evening. Devery, drunker than ever, and Brock are nervously waiting for Billie while Eddie is out looking for her. She comes in quietly after they have gone, and Paul follows her in. They go through the desk, and Paul takes all the papers and documents. Before he leaves, he asks Billie to marry him which, she says, she will think over. She goes to pack her things and tells Brock she is leaving him for good. He is stunned but this shortly turns into fury, and he begins looking for the papers for her to sign so that he can be rid of her. She tells him and Devery that Paul has the papers and they are greatly disturbed. Devery calls the Senator and Eddie is sent to bring Paul who is then almost killed by Brock. Brock offers Paul a hundred thousand dollars which is refused, and Billie informs Brock she will sign back to him all the junkyards still in her name-one a year-if he behaves. She and Paul leave together and the three defeated schemers try to laugh off their disaster. Devery cynically proposes a toast to Billie and Paul:

To all the dumb chumps and all the crazy broads, past, present, and future—who thirst for knowledge—and search for truth—who fight for justice—and civilize each other—and make it so tough for sons-of-bitches like

you—(To Hedges.)—and you—(To Brock.)—and me. (He drinks.)

Curtain

The movement of the play has the rapid tempo which has marked the work of two or three veteran producers of Broadway comedy who have the highest ratios of successes over failures of anybody in show business—their prosperity has been so continuous that the more impressionable New York reviewers have accepted the "fast pace" as an absolute criterion of play construction. One of these producers, George Abbot, taught Kanin what he knows of it and its corollary, called "timing."

The tempo in *Born Yesterday* is rapid but not constant, and it ascends in large open cycles to a succession of rapidissimo climaxes. This rhythm is called in the comedy trade "building a scene." Although the technique many times seems evident, it is not simple and requires a long apprenticeship on the part of the director. There are perhaps a half dozen directors in the United States who handle it with dexterity. In comedy writing, one of the chief elements, often abused, for accelerating the tempo is the sexual one, and, in Kanin's play, Billie Dawn fairly radiates it.

The structure of *Born Yesterday* is Aristotle's wellknown "discovery," but instead of being concentrated in the last act, as Menander and Plautus used it for arbitrary denouement, it here is spread over the whole play. It is the *gradual* discovery of Harry's cheapness by Billie Dawn, along with her discovery of her new self, that creates both the conflict and the resolution of the comcdy. The structure might be criticized for presenting the most interesting discoveries early in the play and leaving too little to sustain even the short third act.²⁵ The inner line of action is subordinate to the outer one, and the result is a slight unbalancing which is probably associated with the previously discussed confusion as to genre: comedy of manners, or protest play, or both. However the discord is not great, and there is a solidness and complacency about the play which radiates the cheerful extroversion so normal to Americans before their theatre became important to the world.

The action ²⁰ is logically tidy by the proof of Price's proposition:

A. Billie Dawn, mistress and silent partner of Harry Brock, is ignorant. Therefore Harry and his attorney get Paul Verral to educate her.

B. Paul shows her that the help she has been giving Harry is unethical. She refuses to sign papers, important to Harry, and Paul steals them because they incriminate Harry and his political tools, revealing "the worst swindle since—uh—the Teapot..."

C. Paul outlasts Harry's murder threats and he and Billie leave together. Harry loses the girl and the European junk monopoly.

The hotel suite in which all the action occurs is a completely passive milieu; it does nothing for the play, which, if it had been written 50 years ago, would surely have taken place in a drawing room. The set does provide a number of contrasts of level which are of advantage to the "stage picture," the grouping of the plastic elements. However it possesses no more than the expected good craftsmanship which eases the director's problem in moving the actors.

The characterization is the formal forte of the play, with the exception of the drawing of the New Republic writer, Paul Verral, whom Atkinson, ²⁷ with good reason, dislikes. Paul is the personification of the "men of good will," the recent ideal of Gassner who was once less abstract in his social criticism. But the flimsy characterization of Verral is not enough to draw Gassner's fire nor to dampen his enthusiasm for the play.

The weak characterization stops with Verral. The Senator has just the right uncertainty and Devery just the right cynicism to accentuate the assertivness of Brock and Billie. The Senator and Devery remain secondary figures, flat and typed, which is exactly what the playwright desires, and yet they take their place beside the two round characters without any contradiction of style. Kanin has genially over-run the playwriting rule, "don't mix your characters with types."

Harry Brock is a "hero in the rough," one of a group in great favor in the recent American theatre which seems to have superseded the polished handsome hero for the moment. Often these "heroes in the rough" are useless, and, even if comic or semicomic, are very rarely humorous.

The role of Billie is the prize role of the play. It is one of those in which we see a character transformed into a different person before our very eyes within about three hours playing time. Granted that *Born Yesterday* is not the *tour de force* that Pygmalion is, it still has in Billie one of the best and most difficult comedy roles for women in all of the American theatre. Judy Holliday overnight became nationally known for her handling of the part; and Marie Mc-Donald, opposite William Bendix, tried her hand at it in Los Angeles as 1950 was coming to a close. When to the simple transformation of character, not by circumstance but by education, one adds the element of self-discovery, the result is a multi-dimensional portrayal which is a credit to any playwright and the answer to a fading actress' prayers. When the role is humorous, as well as round, we have something of a comparative miracle in the undionysian American theatre.

Most fertile of all is the suggestion of what the creation of characters like Billie Dawn can mean to the social theatre which too often has avoided being either entertaining or extravagant because of too much concern with emphasis on the "message."²⁰

Related to the character is that extravagance of sentiment called humor which Taine implied is found at the bottom of a beer stein: "The French know it not." * Without discussing the extensive literature ^{s1} on the aesthetics of the comic, we can establish that comedy has three principal forms: the comic phrase, the comic situation and the comic character. But humor comes only from persons; it is not found in wordplay or in comic situations. In addition, not all comic characters are humorous; the clown, for example, is comic but not humorous. Comedy may be around people; humor is in them. Perhaps this narrowing down of the definition ot humor as distinguished from the comic has served for little when actually the reading of Sterne's Tristram Shandy and Dickens' novels is superior to the sum of the 10 best definitions. A final clue as to humor's hiding place is this: if you look for it, start with your uncle George, the one with the big red nose, the one whose wife thinks is not very smart. For a character to seem humorous to us, perhaps we must be able to love him.

Billie Dawn's infinite ignorance is humorous, and when she discovers it and does something about it she wins our affection as well. Harry's ignorance is humorous, but his bull strength fills us with fear and antagonism. He is a robot locomotive, free for the moment of its outside control station and operated only by a hundred internal relays which respond with perfect reflexes to the hundred situations vital to his continued operation. We laugh with superiority when his limited number of relays can supply only close-to-correct responses, as in the scene where Billie is giving him an "intellectual" quiz and all he can do is to parry with counter-questions from his limited store. We laugh because we are human beings and he isn't quite one, at least in the contemporary American sense. Today the accumulation of several billion human thoughts since the time of the cave and the club, and, more important, the several million thoughts since the Russian pogroms, the English war against the Boers, and the American Haymarket massacre in the last half of the nineteenth century have suggested to Americans that the first requisite of a human being is his having at least an elementary social conscience. Harry has none and as a result his character is comic in its anachronism but awesome in its sub-human strength.

If Kanin had given Harry just one or two weaknesses, of the emotions rather than of the mind, his play would have changed completely. Harry would have become the protagonist and not the villain. Winning just the frailest of our affections he would have become a humorous character, not a comic one.

But Kanin wished to present a big junk profiteer, with echoes of the big men of past "collecting" and "hunting" stages of culture, and he is too capable a director and playwright to let Harry become humorous and run off with the play.

The tried and true comedy of manners in the popular or "realistic" style, the arsenal of comedy, is accepted without subjective torment by Kanin in *Born Yesterday*, as is the traditional illusion of the proscenium stage. The only conventions are those for delineating the villain, which are centuries old, and those for making him forceful and not couth, which are conventions more recent and American. Kanin makes no attempt at innovations in form, except in his characterization which still remains in large part only traditional good craftsmanship. After all, humor is not so rare in world drama; it is only rare at this moment in the United States.

The same style is used by Kanin in two later plays, The Live Wire and The Rat Race, which deflated the astronomical hopes of critics who shared the opinions expressed here about Kanin's first play. The first suffers from allowing the comic heel of the play to get off without being painted a villain ³²—an error which Kanin competently avoided in Born Yesterday. The second caught enough of the symbolist virus making the rounds on Broadway to ruin a good straight comedy. ³³ This virus attacks the eyes first, resulting in a sort of haze through which everything is seen. Then it affects the mind, resulting in vagueness in a primary stage and rapidly developing, if not treated, into complete banality, which the patient often calls "lyric."

Nevertheless Kanin continues to be the prime hope for American comedy and there is every reason to believe that he will now avoid repeating the symbolistic errors of *The Rat Race*. Moreover the fact that he is a prolific writer makes his recent failures no matter for despair.

The language of *Born Yesterday* is not "natural."³⁴ It is the conventional language of comedy, too busy setting up laughs to have other virtues. However it is not so dependent upon sustained brilliant wit as the plays of Bernard Shaw or Oscar Wilde. It dawdles at times and gawkily savors a piece of humorous business which may come close to farce such as Billie's reply to Paul's proposal of marriage: You don't love me. You just love my brain.

Probably the most vivid lines in the play are to be found in a quarrel between Brock and Billie:

BROCK. I picked you up out of the gutter and I can throw you back there, too. Why, you never had a decent meal before you met me.

BILLIE. Yeah, but I had to have 'em with you. You eat terrible. You got no manners. Takin' your shoes off all the time—that's another thing...and picking your teeth, you're just not couth!

BROCK. I'm as couth as you are!

Another excellent passage is that in which Brock receives the news that the legislation Senator Norval Hedges is getting for him will require a little delay and some more money:

DEVERY. I'm sure Norval's doing his best. BROCK. Well, his best ain't good enough. DEVERY. Don't be unreasonable, Harry. There are ninety six votes up there. Norval's just one guy. BROCK. He's the wrong guy. What the hell? We've handled it before. HEDGES. Things aren't the same. BROCK. We'll make 'em the same. That's your job, ain't it? DEVERY. Pretty tough assignment. BROCK. What do I care? (To Hedges) And you, you better get moving or I'll butcher you-you'll wind up a God damn YMCA secretary again before you know. DEVERY. Harry... BROCK. I'm gonna get it fixed so I can do business where I want and how I want and as big as I want. If you ain't with me, you're against me. HEDGES. I'm with you. BROCK. (starting up the stairs) All right, then, you'll have to pull your weight in the God damn boat or I'll get somebody who can. You understand me? (He slams out. There is an awkward pause) HEDGES. He has quite a temper, hasn't he?

From these characters and, secondly, from this dialog come the strongest emotional reactions to the play. Third is the action which is less affective.

The literal meaning of the play is largely found in three negative characters: (1) A Senator who will get legislation passed for \$80,000 per piece. (2) An influence peddler, called a lawyer, who really is only a free lance lobbyist who buys the Senator for (3) Harry Brock who has bought legislation to his own advantage before in the U. S. Senate and who now is seeking a legal way to monopolize the surplus material salvaged after the European war.

The thesis is only implied. Harry's war profiteering has occurred before the play began and now we see his postwar projects. The direct protest is against villain Harry and only indirectly against profiteering, and bribery of legislators. Harry is a heel and everyone in the audience knows it, and anyone blinded by loyalty or affection for Harry may also be educated rapidly, as Billie was, to see what he is. Once again, Atkinson's apt phrase is revealing: The character Harry Brock is a heel because of "the social hostility of the character."

Kanin's nearest approach to a directly stated theis is found in what Billie tells Brock after she has decided to leave him and has refused his offer of marriage:

BILLIE (very simply). Well, all this stuff **Гve been** reading—all that Paul's been telling me—it just mixed me up. But when you hit me before, it was like everything knocked itself together in my head—and made sense. All of a sudden I realized what it means. How some **people** are always giving it and some taking. And it's not fair. So I'm not going to let you any more. Or anybody else.

Interestingly enough the real life counterpart of Senator Norval Hedges was found in Congressman Andrew May of the House of Representatives Military Affairs Committee. May had "arranged" war contracts for Henry and Murray Garsson, munitions dealers, for a price. He was convicted of conspiracy to bribe along with the Garsson brothers, on July 3, 1947, after he had left Congress. On July 25 all three received federal court sentences of eight months to two years in prison.

The charges against Representative May had been semi-public since the last year of the war and certainly Kanin knew of the incidents before he wrote Born Yesterday. Another certainty is that the publicity resulting from the play helped bring the May case into a public court after a long period in which it had remained a hushed-up rumble.

Before he wrote Born Yesterday, Kanin had never demonstrated a particularly acute political awareness, and his work since his first play has not stamped him as a formidable social thinker. His mind seems to respond to "timely" events with the same liberal suspension of judgment which marks most educated Americans, and his intellectual attitudes do not reveal either consistent or radical tendencies. He is another of the lukewarm group of American playwrights who have been overhonored in receiving the sophisticated tag, "ecletic."

Doubtless he shows a strong sympathy for the underdog in *The Rat Race* and a strong dislike for heels and chiselers in *The Live Wire*, but such liberal sentiments make up a sum that is far from being a real social conscience. Perhaps, like Gassner, we should not ask more profundity from Kanin if he will repeat for us occasionally the laughs and the comic craft of *Born Yesterday*. He is essentially a man of the theatre (both the plus and the minus) and he is married to veteran *cctress* Ruth Gordon, who also occasionally writes plays of sentimental reminiscence like *Years Ago* and *The* Leading Lady, both of which were directed by her husband. Her Over Twenty-One, 1944, was a big hit during the meagre wartime theatre seasons. Both members of the husband and wife team have wide theatre and movie experience:

After a slow start as Western Union messenger, Macy's clerk, vaudevillian, saxophonist, and bit player, following some study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Garson Kanin developed meteoric qualities. He did not achieve any singularity as an actor, but he came to the attention of George Abbot as a willing young man with a flair for staging. Mr. Kanin could not have had a better mentor in the field of directing than Mr. Abbot, with whom he was associated in the profitable ventures of *Three Men on a Horse, Boy Meets Girl, Room Service*, and Brother Rat...

Sam Goldwyn, who has a keen eye for talent and backs his judgment with conspicuous action, brought the young man to Hollywood in 1937 when Kanin was only twentyfive and gave him an opportunity to familiarize himself with motion picture technique. R. K. O. allowed him to direct A Man to Remember, and Kanin became "the boy wonder" of the Barbary Coast. Subsequently, he directed the Ginger Rogers picture Bachelor Mother, My Favorite Wife, They Knew What They Wanted and Tom, Dick and Harry. When the war came he enlisted as a private and emerged a captain. The army was astute enough to keep him to his last, and in consequence Kanin was able to direct numerous and valuable documentary films. He climaxed this phase of his career with The True Glory. ⁸⁵

... with her husband, the versatile Garson Kanin, Miss Gordon has produced two Broadway plays and written the motion pictures "A Double Life" and "Adam's Rib." ⁸⁶

Born Yesterday has been one of the greatest box office successes in the entire American theatre. It opened February 4, 1946, and closed December 31 1949, after 1,642 performances. It has been played in translation in most of Europe and in Palestine. In the Russian zone of Germany it was given an enthusiastic production as "anti-American propaganda." The same tag was placed upon Miller's *Death of a Salesman* when it was banned in the American zone of Germany. *Born Yesterday* had a run in the Teatro Latino which was comparatively long for Mexico City.

The highly successful movie made from the play has increased its audience by millions of persons, but Judy Holliday's personal mannerisms are exaggerated and played up to the hilt for the closeup cameras so that Harry Brock becomes a mere supporting role and the movie-goer has no opportunity to become aware of Harry's "social hostility." Judy Holliday, on the strength of this one performance, will probably remain in Hollywood to play "dumb broads" for long enough to acquire *several* swimming pools.

Its effectiveness attested by the box office, Born Yesterday's validity continues today when once again the United States is spending billions of dollars on a war and the Harry Brocks and the Senator Hedges are once more beginning to crawl out from under the rocks.

Its social criticism has had a greater influence upon laughing audiences because of the theatrical excellence of its form which, in addition, is well equilibrated with what the play says. If it had attempted to say more it might have become the domain of the armchair critics, but as it stands it is a magnificent piece of theatre. Atkinson compares it to Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilbomme*st and it is in the best of the comedy of manners tradition. This genre in the American theatre includes no play with a larger social meaning than that of *Born Yesterday*.

NOTES FOR CHAPTER TWO

¹ There is a similar feeling in Mexican preconquest baroque art. Austerity gives to the ugly and the horrible a value which it does not have in a romantic style. The anti-romanticism of *Bury the Dead* was what was lacking in *W hat Price Glory?*

² Brooks Atkinson, *Broadway Scrapbook.* (New York: Theatre Arts Inc. c1947). p. 225.

⁸ Mordecai Gorelik, New Theatres for Old. (New York: Samuel French. 1948). p. 403.

⁵ Sobel, op. cit. p. 119.

" Bury the Dead participates in Polti's situations number

1C1, supplication of the powerful for those dear to the suppliant (inverted); and number 8B2, a revolt of many.

⁷ Gassner, Masters of the Drama. (New York: Dover Publications. c1940). p. 688.

⁸ Frank Hurburt O' Hara, *Today in American Drama*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1939). p. 263.

⁹ Gorelik, *op. cit.* p. 242. Gorelik uses his terms with more historical precision than either Gassner or O'Hara.

¹⁰ Eric Bentley, "Back to Broadway" in *Theatre Arts*, vol. xxxiii, no. 10. November, 1949. p. 13.

¹¹ Gassner, Twenty Best Plays of the Modern American Theatre. (New York: Crown Publishers. c1939). "Finally fantasy prevailed in Irwin Shaw's Bury the Dead...Although Shaw's long one-acter was somewhat wordy and disjointed, it proved that a socially minded playwright did not have to

[•] Idem.

keep his nose to the grindstone of literal realism in order to convey his meaning or purpose." p. xx.

¹² Sobel, *op. cit.* "The story recalling that of the play, *Miracle at Verdun*, concerns dead soldiers who refuse to be buried." p. 119. "An English adaptation of this play by Julian Leigh was given by the Theatre Guild in 1931. The drama inspired Irwin Shaw to write his one-act *Bury the Dead*, 1936." p. 545.

¹³ See the detailed discussion in the chapter in this study dedicated to Waiting for Lefty.

¹⁴ Joseph Wood Krutch, *The American Drama Since* 1918: an Informal History. (New York: Random House. c1939). p. 278.

¹⁵ Excellent for this page of American history is Louis Adamic's *Dynamite*: the Story of Class Violence in America. (New York: The Viking Press. 1935).

¹⁶ "Irwin Shaw decided to compete for a prize offered by a New Theatre League in search of social drama...Bury the Dead' never reached the contest for which it was written, but it was given a production by the League to which it was submitted and attracted the attention of several drama critics who saw it. Six weeks later it was given a professional production and created another round of excitement." Burns Mantle, *Contemporary American Playwrights*. (New York Dodd, Mead and Company. 1941). p. 188.

¹⁷ Gagey, op. cit. p. 133.

¹⁸ Reprinted in the students' magazine Scholastic, September 27, 1950.

¹⁰ Gagey, op. cit. p. 271.

²⁶ Burns Mantle, Contemporary American Playurights. op. cit. p. 188.

²¹ "In the last fourteen years Bury the Dead has been performed hundreds of times throughout the countrv by high school and college dramatic clubs and little theatre groups." Scholastic, September 27, 1950.

²² George Seldes, You Can't Do That (New York: Modern Age Books. c1938).

²³ Gassner, Best Plays of the Modern American Theatre. op. cit.

²⁴ Atkinson, op. cit. p. 298.

²⁵ Edward Landberg, "Born Yesterday" in *The News* (México, D. F.) October 23, 1950. "Unlike most plays, which are written toward a climax, 'Born Yesterday' seems to have taken its start from the material of its remarkable first act, dense enough to provide matter for a good second and a barely passable final one. The petering out of his material seems to have been felt by Kanin, for he makes his first act as long as the last two combined, and the third for all its brevity, barely manages to resolve the problems this side of boredom."

²⁶ Polti's situation number 27B7, the discovery that one's lover is a scoundrel..., fits Born Yesterday fairly closely.

²⁷ Atkinson, op. cit. pp. 297, 299.

²⁸ Gassner, Best Plays of the Modern American Theatre, op. cit. p. xxvii.

²⁰ Gassner has argued long and hard for the light touch in the social theatre.

³⁰ Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, *History of English Literature.* (New York: Grosset and Dunlap. c1908). 4 vols. Translated from the French by H. Van Laun.

³¹ The best commentary on comic theories and a gool bibliography may be found in James Kern Feibleman's In *Praise of Comedy*: a Study in its Theory and Practice. (New York: MacMillan. 1939). Less intellectual and universal but perhaps a better discussion of American humor is Samuel S. Cox's Wby We Laugh. (New York: Harper and Brothers. 1878). 378 pp.

³² Theatre Arts, vol. xxxiv, no. 10. October, 1950. p. 11.

³³ Ibid. vol. xxxiv, no. 3. March, 1950. p. 9.

³⁴ Lawson, *op. cit.* The chapter on dialog discusses four requisites: naturalness, clarity, color, and compression. pp. 287-298.

⁸⁵ Gassner, Best Plays of the Modern American Theatre. op. cit. p. 182.

³⁰ Theatre Arts, vol. xxxiv, no. 2. February, 1950. p. 58. ³⁷ Atkinson, *ob. cit.* p. 299. Chapter 3

THE WAGE SYSTEM

Waiting for Lefty

When the union's inspiration through the worker's blood shall run There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun...

For almost a half-century these words have been sung as a prophecy, and the worker's blood has run in a fight for the right to strike as a means to bargain collectively with employers over wages and working conditions. The employer, on his side, has insisted on his right to bring in strikebreakers and thugs from the outside in order to liquidate what was once his working force. At first the fight was local, the company guards and the local police pounded and fired at the picket line and terrorized the districts of working-class homes. Then, business control of state political machines permitted the use of the state militia for the work of the Pinkertons. The forces of the federal government were first used by President Cleveland to break the Pullman strike, and since then they have sometimes brought peace in a bloody stalemate between strikers and local police or militia, and sometimes brought certain defeat of an unbeatable strike. Under the Wagner Act of 1935, the federal government, to lessen nation-wide strike violence, guaranteed the right to collective bargaining and accepted the responsibility of strike arbiter. Today 20 million organized workers once again find their right to strike removed by the federal government because Robert Taft, Senator from Ohio, had the power at the end of the second World War to turn the federal courts into the injunction-issuing agency which the local courts used to be.

The American bourgeois, and with the name is included the Broadway theatre-goer, never did understand exactly what was going on between the workers who run the machines and the men who own them. The owners and their press had convinced him that the workers wanted to bankrupt industry when they fought for a living wage and against the company store and company houses. Even the worker often did not understand the issue clearly until it appeared in his own backyard, especially after the American Federation of Labor had the militancy knocked out of it in 1911, when the MacNamara brothers were convicted of dynamiting the Los Angeles Times. The periodic Congressional hearings of the charges against the Associated Press since the 62nd Congress have pointed out the agency by which the industrialists could keep the public from knowing what was going on at their plants during strikes. Upton Sinclair and John Reed, among others, were small voices crying out the truth against the suppression and falsification of strike news. The "big lie" thrived and continues to thrive, and there seems to be no medium of mass communications in which the worker and his union can receive a fair presentation of their side of the story. The "big lie" is exposed in a popular union song, the grimly exultant and ironic "Put It on the Ground":

Oh, if you want a raise in pay, All you have to do, Go and ask the boss for it, And he will give it to you, Yes, he will give it to you, my boy, He will give it to you,

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A raise in pay without delay, Oh, he will give it to you.

Oh, put it on the ground, Spread it all around, Dig it with a hoe, It will make your flowers grow.

For men who own the industries, I'm shedding bitter tears; They haven't made a single dime In over thirty years; In over thirty years; Not one thin dime in all that time, In over thirty years.

Oh put it on the ground, Spread it all around, Dig it with a hoe, It will make your flowers grow...

The men who own the industries, They own no bonds and stocks, They own no yachts and limousines, Or gems the size of rocks. They own no big estates with pools, Or silken B. V. D.'s, Because they pay the working man Such fancy salaries.

Oh, put it on the ground, Spread it all around, Dig it with a hoe, It will make your flowers grow.

The first chance the American theatre-goer had to hear labor's case against the bosses was at the November 18, 1931, opening of *Steel* by John Wexley, the author of the previous melodrama hit, *The Last Mile*, which protested against capital punishment. *Steel*, in a revised version, was also another "first" in 1937 when it ran from January 17 to June 5 as the first play produced by a labor union (CIO) with worker-actors. In 1935, at the peak of unemployment, there was a rash of strike plays capped by the one we shall study in detail in this chapter, *Waiting for Lefty* by Clifford Odets. The others were *Let Freedom Ring* by Albert Bein, a study of the mountain farmer made over into a textile worker, and *Black Pit*, called by John Howard Lawson the "most important effort... in the field of proletarian drama."¹ During 1936 and 1937 Clifford Odets wrote *Silent Partner*, and in the latter year The Theatre Union produced Lawson's *Marching Song*.

Besides the strike plays, there were two stage protests against the judicial murder of labor organizers Sacco and Vanzetti: Gods of the Lightning, 1928, and Winterset, 1935, both by Maxwell Anderson, the first in collaboration with Harold Hickerson. In 1939 came a protest against the academic repression of a professor who read Vanzetti's letters as a part of his literature course, The Male Animal by James Thurber and Elliot Nugent. We shall not study any of these last three plays because they cannot stand in comparison with Waiting for Lefty and, secondly, because too much space would have to be wasted in a useless refutation of those who insist that Winterset is far superior to Gods of the Lightning. (It is superior only in the sense of its having a higher altitude, closer to the clouds.)

If Wexley's strike play began a new kind of playwriting, Odet's *Waiting for Lefty* opened an era of labor theatre, complete with designers, actors, writers, directors, technicians and *audience*. Harold Clurman, director of Group Theatre, describes the opening night of Odet's play with these words:

Sunday night, January 5, 1935, at the old Civic Repertory Theatre on Fourteenth Street, an event took place to be noted in the annals of the American theatre. The evening had opened with a mildly amusing one-act play by Paul Green. The audience, though attracted by the guest appearance of a good part of the Group company, had no idea of what was to follow.

The first scene of *Lefty* had not played two minutes when a shock of delighted recognition struck the audience like a tidal wave. Deep laughter, hot assent, a kind of joyous fervor seemed to sweep the audience toward the stage. The actors no longer performed; they were being carried along as if by an exultancy of communication such as I had never witnessed in the theatre before. Audience and actors had become one. Line after line brought applause, whistles, bravos, and heartfelt shouts of kinship.²

Toward the end of Spring, 1935, the play had carried the entire nation ahead of it. Four new regional theatres of the Group had been founded in order to show *Lefty*. Clurman states that there were more than 90 simultaneous productions:

All in all, Lefty was being done in some sixty towns which had never before witnessed a theatrical performance. Thirty-two cities were seeing the twin bill of Lefty and Till the Day I Die at the same time.³

In truth it was a play which expressed the aspirations of the people, and its prestige grew with the prohibitions and arrests for "profanity" and "illegal assembly" in Philadelphia, Boston, New Haven, Newark, Dorchester, Chelsea and Roxbury, and with the beating of a California director by the Bund fascists after the presentation of *Till the Day I Die.*⁴

Lefty loses much of its theatrical impact when read in the calm of the library. It is almost certain that the intellectual, first becoming acquainted with the play through reading, would judge it "interesting, but nothing great." But if he first sees it in the theatre, he is conquered by a stage magic which makes him think during a short and pleasant lapse that the fight of the cabbies in Lefty is his fight. He does not recover his

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accustomed calm until he leaves the theatre and calls a cab. Then, his madness passed, he rides home without saying a word to the real-life cabby in front of him.

The formal analysis of Lefty reveals that it has two genres: the drama of thesis, and the protest play. The passion it contains overcomes the mixture of two genres adapted to opposing major style currents and causes a dominance of the protest play genre, and with it the romantic style, over the thesis play genre. It is the best protest play included in the present study. Among its internal "'flashback" scenes are included various plays (and genres) within the larger play. For example, the two scenes with women characters are of the genre of the sex problem play, and the scene between Miller and Fayette is a small action melodrama. In later works Odets has used over again all of these genres, plus that of the middle class problem drama, and he, at times, even approaches the tone of the sentimental retrospect genre.

Lefty is in one act but is divided into eight episodes. There is only one curtain, after the last episode.

Opening Episode: On stage as the curtain goes up are the members of a workers' committee and the head of the union, Harry Fatt, who is addressing the audience, attempting to convince them that they should not strike. Voices from the audience answer back and ask several times, "Where's Lefty?" They want to hear from the committee members, the first of whom to speak is Joe. He tells them first that he does not know where Lefty is but he knows Lefty has not run out on them. Then he tells how his wife convinced him they should strike and the scene shifts to...

Episode of Joe and Edna: Joe comes home from work to find the furniture all gone because the payments were not made. He and Edna argue because they are

tired, hungry, and have two children to feed and clothe. She suggests that the cab drivers strike and threatens to leave Joe if he does not do something, even though it may be dangerous as he tells her it would be. He decides to go see Lefty, leaving Edna triumphant.

Lab Assistant Episode: Fayette, an industrialist, is offering Miller, a lab assistant, a twenty-dollar raise, switching him to a new laboratory to work with a very important chemist, Dr. Brenner, on poison gas. Miller is shocked and begins to think of his brother and two cousins killed in the last war but Fayette tells him the 12 million men killed and the 20 million wounded or missing were not their worry. "If big business went sentimental over human life there wouldn't be big business of any sort!" When he asks Miller to write a weekly report on Dr. Brenner's activities, however, Miller refuses, thus losing his raise and his job, and ends the interview by hitting Fayette in the mouth.

Episode of the Young Hack and his Girl: Florence's brother, Irv, is trying to convince her that she should not see Sid any more. She and Sid have been engaged three years, but he does not make enough as a cab driver to permit him to marry. Sid comes in, they talk of their plight and the possibility of going off together, but they decide the cards are against them.

Labor Spy Episode: Fatt introduces Tom Clayton who has had practical strike experience at Philly. Clayton tells them that Fatt is right, the time is not ripe for a strike. A voice from the audience tells him to sit down, accuses him of being a company spy, and finally exposes him as his "own lousy brother," Clancy, not Clayton, who then "scrams down center aisle."

Young Actor Episode: ⁵ He is waiting to see a theatrical producer. The stenographer is sympathetic, and she urges him to say that his work in stock was work in New York theatres. The producer emerges from a hot bath and determines that the young actor will not do because he is not the "type" for a soldier's part. As the actor is leaving the stenographer offers to loan him a dollar. "One dollar buys ten loaves of bread, Mister. Or one dollar buys nine loaves of bread and one copy of The Communist Manifesto."

Interne Episode: Dr. Benjamin (one of the committee members) is being replaced by the incompetent nephew of a Senator in the performance of a difficult operation. He is also told by Dr. Barnes that the board has found it necessary to close another charity ward and to cut down on the staff. Although Benjamin has seniority, he is a Jew, so he was chosen to go. He tells Dr. Barnes he has thought of going to Russia to work in socialized medicine but has decided his work is in America, and that he will have to get some kind of a job to keep alive—"maybe drive a cab"...

Closing Episode: Once again at the union meeting. Agate is speaking about union officers and about his union button which he cannot wear because it has burnt itself up blushing in shame. Fatt and the gunmen on the stage handle him roughly to silence him, but the committeemen protect him as he urges the workers to fight for their rights, to strike, and not to wait for Lefty. His speech is interrupted by a man who comes running in to say they have just found Lefty "behind the car barns with a bullet in his head!" Agate cries to the crowd, asks them what their answer is, and hears the workers shout over and over again "STRIKE!"

The play moves through brusque contrasts of rhythms, even more than *Bury the Dead*, which give a general effect of violence. In linear terms, the movement is composed of intersecting diagonals. The tempo is "swift" and, in addition, there is an even more rapid artificial velocity which is imparted by the terrible sincerity of the characters in their "increasingly explicit statement of revolutionary protest." ⁷ All the scenes are "prestissimo" except those of Dr. Benjamin and of the Young Hack and his Girl. In these the tempo is slower but the same urgency is dominant. The sexual emotions are those of repressed longing which only the future may define, but in the conflict of Joe and Edna there is the suspense of Edna's terrible threat which introduces the violent climate of the internal scenes.

The principal structure is an "envelope" like the one of Bury the Dead which we discussed previously. It opens and closes the play and contains the five flashback scenes divided by blackouts. A sixth internal scene which is not a flashback, but rather an added part of the envelope, gives Lefty a structural reinforcement which the anti-war play does not have. This scene, the Labor Spy episode, falls between the third and fourth flashbacks and returns the action for a moment to the union hall and the present in order to reestablish the identification of the audience with the characters.

The action ⁸ is greatly compressed in the resolution, the final part which Price calls the "result of the action," but it can be contained, despite this fault, within Price's proposition:

A. Taxi drivers await the word of their leader Lefty in order to begin a strike even though the heads of their union are gangsters sold out to the owners and the police.

B. Flashbacks reveal the privations in the lives of the drivers caused by an economic crisis.

C. The cabbies discover a spy who has sneaked in to sabotage the strike and they discover Lefty has been murdered either by company thugs or those in their own union. They declare the strike. There is the combination of an interior with an exterior line of action: the outer one as extrovert as in an action melodrama, and the inner one expressive of all the doubts of the economic system and of all the conflicts in the breast of the worker dispossessed by one of the periodic relapses of big business. The two lines seem one, thanks to the magnificent fusion given them by the dramatist's passion.

The welding of so intense an inner line to an outer action is found, so far as the present writer knows, only in some primitive rituals and in a great religious play. Several writers have noted the almost religious sense in Odets' work, among them Gagey:

Be yourself, lead your own life—he seems to say—give in to love but don't allow it to interfere with your mission; protest against poverty and social evils, and unite with others in creating a better world. Through love, self-expression, and rebellion Odets characters are driven to personal conversion—not unlike religious conversion in its intensity—which leads to full realization or to action. This is characteristic of the reforming movement of the thirties and rather than strict ideology accounts for much of the leftism in Odets' plays. *

Lawson also comments on this quality in *Waiting* for Lefty which he considers a failing, though, at the same time, a source of power:

Odets' conception of social change is still somewhat romantic; it is seen as a vast force, the recognition of which constitutes a personal regeneration. Thus he perceives the moment of explosive anger, of realization and conversion. Indeed *Waiting for Lefty* is a study in conversions. This is the source of its power. But Odets will undoubtedly go beyond this to mastery of more profound and more sustained conflict. ¹⁰

In the production of *Lefty* there is no set; the stage copies the platform of a union hall. The text specifies

only "...a bare stage. On it are sitting six or seven men in a semi-circle...a committee of workers." The flashback scenes take place in a lighted area between the committee and the audience while the committee members remain seated in the shadows. All the technical resources are simple and economical. The atmosphere, dominated by the force and directness of the committee members, is one of violence and of just-awakening strength which adds all the more to the violence. Much of the effect of the play would be lost in a luxurious or baroque theatre. Much better is a simple and even poor theatre, and in fact the best place to stage the play is in a union hall.

The characters, except for Grady and his stenographer, Fayette, Dr. Barnes, Fatt and his gunmen, are taxi drivers and their women. Three of the drivers were previously of the middle class, chemist's assistant, actor, doctor, and only to this extent is Lawson's generalization valid:

But here we have a militant strike committee made up largely of declassed members of the middle class. One cannot reasonably call these people "stormbirds of the working class." ¹¹

At the same time there is no reason that such people would not be found on a militant strike committee. They have been forced into work with a starvation wage after having been fairly well paid. Two of the three men have additional grounds for holding ideas of the militant left; they lost their previous jobs as a result of race discrimination and war-mongering. The actor's motives are less clearly defined, but it must be remembered that the episode in which he figures was left out of the first popular edition of Odets' plays, which was perhaps the playwright's recognition of the weakest scene in *Waiting for Lefty*. The slogans which the stenographer fires at the actor as he is leaving and the one, "Stormbirds of the working-class," at the end of the play lack a development leading up to them. They are 'not cumulatively logical, not based on fleshand-blood realities." ¹² This however is a failure of particular bits of the dialog, and not one of the characterization in the basic action. We can reasonably expect to find the come-down romantic bourgeois on the strike committee, and find him militant. We are less apt to find him eloquent or find him on the corner distributing Marxist leaflets.

The cabbies are all "positive" characters and receive life, warmth and truth from the dramatist's sympathy. Their manner of thinking is pragmatic. ¹⁸

The "negative" group, among them Fatt, Fayette and the gunmen, ³⁴ are mostly "types" rather than "characters," and Grady and his stenographer are "silhouettes," following Usigli's three-part classification.

The historical style of Lefty, naturalistic, is a substyle of the romantic, one of three great style currents, the other two being the classic and the popular or "realistic." In Lefty there are also conventional elements from the popular style. Clurman " and Gagey " say the play was conceived by Odets upon the model of the minstrel show, one of the most popular and conventional American theatre forms. With such an economical structure, Lefty, dedicated to another end, might have ended up as conventional theatre in the popular style, but it is a protest (always romantic) and the union of the audience with the actors creates a complete stage illusion which makes the dominant style naturalistic and "romantic." "

The style of *Lefty* is the same one used by Odets in his later works, but these fall into the persistent trap of romantic American symbolism or relax into romantic reminiscense. They get misty through a lack of the urgency and passion which unify Awake and Sing and Waiting for Lefty.¹⁸

We can note historically the progression of the socalled workers' drama from the romantic style through the popular, and it may be expected to arrive at a definite affirmation in the classic style. It began everywhere as protest drama because it came from outside the dominant social classes (Gorky's plays and stories are good examples) and in the young Soviet theatre we no longer see the romantic protest but rather a roughly finished popular drama which seeks to create social types and to approach the proverb in the pithiness of its commonsense instruction or thesis. A classic Soviet drama need not be expected as long as its leaders and artists feel their country is in danger from its capitalist and imperialist neighbors.

The American workers' theatre has been romantic during all of its protest phase, but there seems to be a tendency in that part of it which has accepted the Marxist perspective or vantage point to incorporate some few formal elements of the popular style in creating worker types and to present a "show how" thesis as well as a protest, a solution as well as a problem. There is in the labor theatre for the moment a still dominant romantic style with secondary borrowings from the popular style. A purer popular style is found in regional dramatists, mainly from agricultural areas, but there is no reason to expect such a style in the proletarian drama until the working class becomes dominant in the United States.

One of the greatest formal triumphs in Lefty is its dialog. Atkinson describes it as of "uncommon strength." ¹⁰ Clurman calls it a new kind of dialog and

recognizes an antecedent for it in John Howard Lawson's Success Story:

It was Lawson's play that brought Odets an awareness of a new kind of theatre dialogue. It was a compound of lofty moral feeling, anger, and the feverish argot of the big city. It bespoke a warm heart, an outraged spirit, and a rough tongue.²⁰

The dialog of *Lefty* satisfies all four of Lawson's theoretical requisites: compression, color, clarity and naturalness. Gagey speaks of Odets' "great gift for stage dialogue—crisp, dramatic, humorous. Odets' humor is rarely contrived or factitious but arises naturally out of character."²¹

The cabbies in Lefty do not speak the language of the street, nor do they speak like poets, but neither do they speak like declassed bourgeois, as Lawson maintained. They speak like very romantic workers, educated workers of conscience and refined feelings. Their passionate eloquence of words and action is rarely found in the midst of misery. They speak what must be the new and literary language of the ideal worker, the lexicon written by Lawson and the grammar by Odets.

The two formal elements of action and dialog carry the strongest emotions in the play; both are colored by the convictions of the dramatist who stands just beyond the lights. The characterization, although not weak, is less compelling.

The antecedents in theatre history for the forms used in Lef/y are chiefly American: The minstrel show derives its type characters from the regional humorists following the Civil War and becomes an independent popular theatre toward the end of the nineteenth century; the envelope comes from Walt Whitman's poetry and was also used in Schlumberg's *Miracle at Verdun*, presented in translation in New York in 1931; the flashback was used for the first time in the American theatre in 1914 when Rice's On Trial was staged.

The only symbolism in Lefty grows toward the end of the play when the local strike begins to suggest a larger revolution. It becomes, in fact, a call to all workers to put down their oppressors and to seize with their own hands a decent life for themselves and their families. In this suggestion lies the power of the play. Lawson says, "The emotional tension mounts as the play proceeds: this intensity does not spring from the action, but from the increasingly explicit revolutionary protest..." ²² In the middle of a total depression, economic and mental, Lefty was received by the worker as a vision of truth and hope.

The literal meaning of the play is obvious and can be stated as a thesis: the militant worker, through the strike, and only through the strike, can hit his oppressors in the only place they are sensitive, in the pocket book, and can win fair pay for his work.

Except for its subjectivity, *Lefty* has much in common with the "learning play" which gives an example of an action and demonstrates the manner for carrying it out: workers win out over company spies and infiltrated gangster leaders who are sold out to the owners; once the agents of their masters are defeated, the workers go on strike to win for themselves a larger part of what they produce.

The meaning is clearer if we know that at the time *Lefty* opened there were strikes in nearly all of the 48 states. The "economic crisis" had become an employment crisis, and the economic ills of free enterprise which the Roosevelt administration had been trying to doctor since it came into office had reached their gravest stage. As the workers had become hungrier, the employers, police and state guards had become tougher.

In 1935 the end-point had been reached; the worker could take no less and he was willing to fight. The nation-wide fight of that year was won by labor, and from that fight came an unprecedented growth in the power of organized labor which was stopped only with Roosevelt's death.

The immediate results of the workers' victory were: (1) the Wagner Labor Relations Act in the summer of 1935 which recognized the legal status of the unions and the right to strike and which established the services of the government as a third party in disputes between industrialists and the unions, guaranteeing, at the same time, free elections among the workers to choose their labor organization; (2) the founding in November, 1935, of the Committee (later Congress) of Industrial Organizations which began as a cluster of militant unions; (3) the victory of the CIO over big steel in March, 1937, and later over little steel, marred by the police massacre of workers at Republic Steel in Chicago on Memorial Day, 1937.

Lefty was born then, during the turbulent period which produced a great victory for the worker lasting until the end of the second World War when the Taft-Hartley law and the patent reaction in the CIO demonstrated the new strength of reactionary industrialists, thanks to the millions of dollars they had gained during the war. Lefty was directly inspired by one of the "more violent" strikes of the New York taxi drivers in February, 1935, which received a great deal of attention in the New York newspapers. It was a small fight fought in the very thick of a major battle.

Meanings secondary to t^{t} e strike call are found in four of the five flashback scenes, two of the four being very similar. The first reveals the sterile life of a married couple living in misery, and the threat of the wife to leave with another man if her husband does not get more money for his family. The second shows a chemist, an idealist, who refuses a job on poison gases and starts work as a cabby. Love which cannot be realized because of a lack of money appears again in the third scene; the young hack and his girl cannot marry until he makes more money. The last scene shows a doctor who has to leave his profession to work as a cabby because of racial discrimination and nepotism, the two aggravated by economic crisis. The four scenes express problems which were universal in the United States in 1935. Two of them, war and racial discrimination, are so important that they have received the attention of an entire generation of playwrights of social protest and are the subject of two chapters in another part of this study. The urgency of the problem of the other two scenes, "the economic base for love," is still reflected today in a popular saying, heard in 1950, among the waitresses of California: "He's a good kid, but a dollar short."

The materials ripe in social conflict which Odets chose to include in *Lefty* would seem to indicate a radical frame of thinking in the young dramatist, but the term radical specifies only thinking which is "original" without excusing it from the prerequisite of being clean cut. It is doubtful that any writer of protests can qualify for the adjective. A good example, again, is Maxim Gorky, whose incurable romanticism kept him in difficulties with the young Soviet Union.

Odets took from Marxism, in many ways a romantic movement, all that a romantic and intellectual bourgeois could take in order to furnish his social "diagnosis", with the two principal directions which Gassner observes:

...his diagnostic philosophy was simple enough. It consisted of two main principles: the increasing proletarianization or awakening of the middle class and the growing insurgency of the working classes. The first diagnosis appeared in his earliest play *Waiting for Lefty*...The theme reappeared in ...*Paradise Lost*...As for the playwright's tribute to the growing militancy of the working class, it is to be found in the general situation of *W.aiting for Lefty* which reveals several workers driven to rebellion...²⁸

But we fall into error if we think, as many critics of the reactionary press did in the 30's, that Odets expressed a Communist or even Marxist doctrine. Perhaps he participated in the aspirations of Marxism, as did a large part of the American working class in 1935, but he did not participate in its methods or its doctrine. Clurman explains that "Perhaps Odets privately harbored the belief that socialism offers the only solution for our social-economic problems," ²⁴ but he goes on to refute any political connection between Odets, his intimate friend, and Marxism:

Odets' work from the beginning contained "a protest that is also prophecy" ...But there was rarely any expression of political consciousness in it, no deep committment to a coherent philosophy of life, no pleading for a panacea... Odets' work is not even proletarian in the sense that Gorky's work is. Rather it is profoundly of the lower middle class with all its vacillation, dual allegiance, fears, groping, selfdistrust, dejection, spurts of energy, hosannas, vows of conversion, and prayers for release.²⁵

Gagey is of the same opinion as Clurman. "For all his leftist ties and sympathies Odets was by no means a complete or consistent Marxist." ²⁶ And despite Krutch's firm declaration of Odets' "definite conversion to Communism" ²⁸ after he finished *Awake and Sing* and before he wrote *Waiting for Lefty*, no one who has read Marx can call Odets a Marxist. (Walter Winchell gave up trying to get "the party line" from Odets and decided to get it directly from Joseph Stalin).

There is no doubt that Odets in 1935 was romantically rebellious enough to warrant Luther Adler's comment after reading Lefty, "... the Group has produced the finest revolutionary playwright in America." \approx Odets was sincere, but a bourgeois, and after going to Hollywood to write for the movies he lost the association (with Group) and the purpose which had made him the hope of the American theatre. Bentley is only one of several who have lamented Odets in Hollywood.

Odets never worked; he was a student, "invisible actor" with Theatre Guild, actor of more importance with the Group, and playwright. And with good reason, as we noted before, he returned in his later work to bourgeois reminiscences. *Lefty* was the happy result of the combination of a general economic crisis with an emotional crisis of Odets. Clurman speaks of some of the inquietudes confided by Odets:

He did speak to me...about his present state of mind, the feeling the times evoked in him. He wanted comradeship; he wanted to belong to the largest possible group of humble, struggling men prepared to make a great common effort to build a better world. Without this, life for him would be lonely and hopeless. In the Group Theatre he had found kindred spirits, intellectual stimulation. But we were artists. Now he felt the need to share his destiny with the lowliest worker, with those who really stood in the midst of life...He was driven by a powerful emotional impetus, like a lover on the threshold of an elopement. ³⁰

And Odets himself confessed of his first six plays that "Much of them was felt, conceived, and written out of a personal need." ^a In all of this there is the verification of what Lawson sees in Odets, "a mode of thought which accepts *emotional drift* as a substitute for rational causation." ²² Odets drifted into the Group Theatre, became a playwright, and then drifted away to Hollywood.

Denying a measure of consistency to its author does not deny the importance in its time of his best play, for *Waiting for Lefty* begins, without exaggeration, the period of maturity of the American social protest theatre. Clurman's comment on the opening of the play indicates its immediate effect upon the American people:

...with a spontaneous roar of "Strike! Strike!" it was something more than a tribute to the play's effectiveness, more even than a testimony of the audience's hunger for constructive social action. It was the birth cry of the thirties. Our youth had found its voice. It was a call to join the good fight for a greater measure of life in a world free of economic fear, falsehood, and craven servitude to stupidity and greed. "Strike!" was *Lefty'r* lyric message, not alone for a few extra pennies of wages oc for shorter hours of work, strike for greater dignity, strike for a bolder humanity, strike for the full stature of man.

The audience, I say, was delirious. It stormed the stage, which I persuaded the stunned author to mount. People went from the theatre dazed and happy: a new awareness and confidence had entered their lives.³³

Clurman's picture is impressionistic, perhaps, but so was the audience, and the effect of the play was that of an electric shock. There has probably not been a play since the opening of Hugo's *Hernani* which caused as much furor in the theatre as *Lefty*. Although Gagey criticizes it for its lack of subtlety, "Krutch gives an unequivocal answer, "there is no denying its effectiveness in achieving all it sets out to achieve." " The ideas of Americans were not subtle in 1935. The people waited for a work with something to say, a play like Lefty in which "the points are made, one after another, with bold simplicity." **

Nor is there any doubt that the people learned well the lessons which Lefty and other militant plays taught. Under the Wagner Act they knew how to win the recognition of their unions and the right to strike, and in the benighted states they knew how to continue dving at the hands of the National Guard, the Cossacks and other provincial police "bought and paid for" by the industrialists. And during the second World War even the reactionaries and gangsters had learned something of Lefty's lesson. When powerful John L. Lewis and his miners dared to strike in wartime, no reactionary dared to employ the old resource of the rifle and the government uniform. Today the worker, to regain what he has lost since Roosevelt's death, will have to fight harder than ever. As long as there are industrialists, the fight against them is eternal, this we hear repeated in the union song "Joe Hill," which commemorates the pioneer workers' songwriter who died from a rifle ball, saying "Don't mourn for me. Organize." Joe Hill has become the unquiet spirit which haunts complacent union officers:

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night, Alive as you and me, Says I "But Joe, you're ten years dead" "I never died" says he, "I never died" says he. "Salt Lake Joe, by God" says I, Him standing by my bed, "They framed you on a murder charge," Says Joe, "But I ain't dead," Says Joe, "But I ain't dead."

"The copper bosses killed you, Joe. They shot you, Joe," says I.

"Takes more than guns to kill a man," Says Joe, "I didn't die." Says Joe, "I didn't die."

And standing there as big as life, And smiling with his eyes, Joe says, "What they forgot to kill Went on to organize. Went on to organize."

"Joe Hill ain't dead," he says to me. "Joe Hill ain't never died. Where workingmen are out on strike, Joe Hill is at their side. Joe Hill is at their side."

"From San Diego up to Maine, In every mine and mill Where workers strike and organize, It's there you'll find Joe Hill. It's there you'll find Joe Hill."

Lefty is significant, not only in the United States, but also in the workers' theatre in the rest of the world, and there is sufficient reason to believe it will take its place as a landmark of an epoch in the history of world theatre. The impact of the play, even in translation, is demonstrated by an incident in Mexico, where it is presented occassionally for unions by the experimental group, Teatro de Arte de Mexico, directed by Lola Bravo. Although Mexico is barely beginning to be industrialized, the spontaneous and powerful reaction to the first presentation of Lefty at a workers' meeting was reminiscent of the opening in the United States. When the Company Spy fled down the aisle, a worker leaped up and pummeled the unfortunate actor. One thinks immediately of the opening of Gorky's Children of the Sun in 1905 when the members of the audience pulled out pistols on the entrance of the armed "mob" of extras. Today Lefty is presented to workers in Mexico only after a curtain talk in which it is explained that *all* characters are completely fictitious.

In the same way that Odets' plays can be recognized as the main impetus in the growth of the Group Theatre, these plays, especially *Waiting for Lefty*, are responsible as well for the creation of a mature theatre of social protest in the United States. A theatre of sufficient artistic quality, with wider horizons than the agit-prop play of instantaneous communication which preceded it A theatre first theatrical and afterwards social which can show (where it is most difficult, in the boxoffice) the public's respect for the art and the content of the production.

Lefty is the best of Odets' three plays of protest. Silent Partner also studied a strike, but with less art, and Awake and Sing showed the proletarianization of the middle class. The last of the three was the most highly praised by the critics. All are still valid and significant today, but the two which followed Lefty on stage could not repeat the illusive miracle of the first.

The equilibrium of form and content is the final proof of any great work, and it is effected in *Waiting* for Lefty by the use of new forms for presenting social content and by the passion of the dramatist. Krutch intelligently discusses the place which Lefty has in the American social theatre:

Innumerable other "proletarian" dramatists have tried to do the same thing with far less success. Some of them got bogged down in futuristic symbolism which could not conceivably do more than bewilder "the worker"; others stuck close to the usual form of the drama without realizing that this form was developed for other uses and that their attempt to employ it for directly hortatory purposes can only end in what appears to be no more than exceedingly crude dramaturgy. Mr. Odets, on the other hand. here made a clean sweep of the conventional form along with the conventional intentions. He boldly accepts as his scene the very platform he intends to use, and from it permits his characters to deliver speeches which are far more convincing there than they would be if elaborately worked into a conventional dramatic story. Like many of his fellows he had evidently decided that art is a weapon, but unlike many who proclaim the doctrine, he had the full courage of his conviction. To others he left the somewhat nervous determination to prove that direct exhortation can somehow be made compatible with "art" and that "revolutionary" plays can be two things at once. The result of his downrightness was success where most of the others had failed.²⁷

In Lefty we have an American dramatic archetype which serves as a measure of the equilibrium in other romantic plays of protest. There are similar American archetypes, outside the theatre of social protest, for the classic style in Thornton Wilder's Our Town and for the popular style in the best of the plays about negro life, Green Pastures and Run, Little Chillun. None of them is without extraneous stylistic elements, but for the moment they serve for making comparisons within each of the three styles in the American theatre.

Le/1y, perhaps, serves even as one of the points of reference for the entire romantic theatre current in the Occidental culture.

NOTES FOR CHAPTER THREE

¹ Lawson, op. cit. p. 284.

² Harold Clurman, *The Fervent Years*: the Story of the Group Theatre and the Thirties. (London: Dennis Dobson, Ltd. 1946). pp. 147f.

³ Ibid. p. 156.

Idem.

⁵ This episode was not included in the play as printed in the popular Modern Library edition: Clifford Odets, *Six Plays of Clifford Odets*: with a Preface by the Author. (New York: Random House. 1939).

" Krutch, op. cit. p. 265.

⁷ Lawson, op. cit. p. 252.

^a In *Waiting for Lefty* we find Polti's situation number 8B2, the revolt of many, and number 20A2, life sacrificed for the success of one's people.

Gagey, op. cit. p. 173.
Lawson, op. cit. p. 254.
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¹¹ Ibid. p. 252.

13 Idem.

¹³ Ibid. p. 249.

" "... the characterization is for the most part crisp... such simplicity must be paid for at a certain price. The villains are mere caricatures and even the very human heroes occasionally freeze into stained-glass attitudes, as, for example, a certain lady secretary in one of the flash backs does when she suddenly stops in her tracks to pay a glowing tribute to *The Communist Manifesto* and to urge its perusal upon all and sundry." Krutch, *op. cit.* p. 265.

¹⁷ Clurman, op. cit. p. 141.

¹⁴ Gagey, op. cit. p. 159.

" Clurman, op. cit. p. 153.

¹⁸...the prolectarianism of Waiting for Lefty and (in part) of Awake and Sing became less explicit in his later work." Gagey, op. cit. p. 173.

¹⁹ Cited by Clurman, op. cit. p. 149.

²⁰ Ibid. p. 150.

- ²¹ Gagey, op. cit. p. 173.
- ²⁹² Lawson, op. cit. p. 252.

²⁴ Gassner, Masters of the Drama. op. cit. pp. 689f.

²¹ Clurman, op. cit. p. 151.

²⁶ Ibid. pp. 150f.

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28 Gagey, op. cit. p. 173.

²⁷ Krutch, op. cit. p. 264.

²⁸ Cited in Clurman, op. cit. p. 142.

²⁰ Bentley, *The Playwright as Thinker*: a Study of Drama in Modern Times. (New York: Reynal and Hitch-cock. c1946). p. 16.

³⁰ Clurman, op. cit. pp. 141f.

³¹ Odets, op. cit. p. x.

³² Lawson, op. cit. p. 251.

³³ Clurman, op. cit. p. 148.

³⁴ Gagey, op. cit. p. 160.

³⁵ Krutch, op. cit. p. 264.

³⁶ Ibid. p. 265.

⁸⁷ Ibid. pp. 265f.

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Chapter 4

THE TECHNOLOGY MYTH. THE SELLING CULT AND THE SUCCESS MYTH

The Adding Machine

Death of a Salesman

THE PLAYS which we will study in this final chapter are those challenging the American myth which has two principal aspects: the machine and success. The myth is most easily recognized in its caricatured form, defended in the Hearst press and, in the Congress of the United States, by the House Committee on un American Activities. The first play which we will study, Elmer Rice's The Adding Machine, 1923, is the first attack on the "American way" and marks in many ways the beginning of the social theatre in the United States. It emphasizes more the mechanization aspect than the success myth as does Maxwell Anderson's High Tor, 1937. The companion in the world of ideas to mechanization is "intellectualism and mechanistic science" which Anderson's Key Largo, 1939, attacked for its "failure to provide moral ideas." 1 John Howard Lawson's satire on the bourgeoisie, Roger Bloomer, 1923 touches at times the success ideal but is mostly concerned with love, dreams, death and poison. The first really concentrated attack on American "success" is that of Counsellor At Law by Elmer Rice, 1931, John Howard Lawson follows in 1932 with Success Story. Both have been superseded artistically by Arthur Miller's

Death of a Salesman, 1949, which will also be studied in detail in this chapter.

The Theatre Guild, which began immediately after the first World War its attempt for an art theatre in New York, presented what its directors considered the best of foreign plays before houses sold in advance and, at the same time, tried to encourage native American writers for an art theatre. For its American plays the Guild took its cue from the active Provincetown Players, who had blessed the young Eugene O'Neill and the poetess Edna St. Vincent Millay with productions of short plays. The poetess' one-act Aria Da Capo, 1919, is probably the first outspoken play of social protest in the United States. * This first twinge of social conscience the Guild chose to represent in 1923 with The Adding Machine of Elmer Rice. Only such a powerful institution as the Guild could have presented on Broadway a play with so many radical innovations. It was "more an artistic than a popular success." ³

The first impression of the play is that its fantastic, jangled action reproduces the bedlam of the American life at the service of business. *The Adding Machine* bites deeply and savagely, and from the biting and the jangling come the most prominent emotions of the play. Ludwig Lewisohn describes the audience at the opening:

Mr. Rice's vision of the world may infuriate you. There were people behind me at the Garrick who first grumbled and then cursed politely. You cannot miss it; you cannot withdraw yourself from its coherence and completeness.⁴

The obvious form is that of a social protest play ⁵ in seven scenes without act divisions. But for our study of form we must first know more about what occurs during the course of the action.

Scene 1: Zero is in bed and Mrs. Zero keeps up a

steady monolog to him as she prepares for bed. She complains about the movies, how she'd like to get to see them before they are censored, how she wishes she'd not married Mr. Zero because he is still a bookkeeper as he was 25 years ago when they were married. She speaks of someone merely as "she," who is not there anymore, walking around at night, someone who has evidently received a six-months sentence. "The dirty *bum!* The idea of her comin' to live with respectable people." As Mrs. Zero climbs into bed she warns her husband he'd best not be taking up with any other woman.

Scene 2: Zero is seen working with Daisy Diana Dorothea Devore, adding numbers in an office. They talk and each carries on his own conversation with himself regardless of what the other is saying. Daisy complains because Zero bosses her around. Zero speaks of "her," wondering what she will do when she gets out of jail. Daisy talks of suicide but can figure no way out. Zero considers killing his wife, then decides maybe she will die soon anyway. Daisy wishes his wife would die so they could get married, but Zero thinks Daisy would be as bad as his wife. He talks then of how he's going to get a raise from his boss while Daisy muses about kisses in the movies. When the whistle blows, Daisy leaves and the Boss comes in to ask for Zero. He tells Zero they are getting adding machines to do his job so that he will no longer be needed. Zero sees red, then everything blacks out.

Scene 3: In the Zeros' dining room. Zero has come home late from the office and his wife belabors him, especially since company is coming. The sound of an adding machine, which to Mrs. Zero is the doorbell, is heard so she sends Zero to change his shirt which has red ink all over it. Their friends, the Ones, Twos, Threes, Fours, Fives and Sixes arrive and talk of the weather, fashions and such trivia. The men go into a huddle over a joke, then the women over the latest scandal concerning the Sevens and the talk goes on and on, until the doorbell rings. Zero says. "I'll go. It's for me." At the door is a policeman looking for Zero who says he's been expecting him. Zero pulls out his collar from his pocket saying the stains are blood not ink, and he calmly tells his wife, "I killed the boss this afternoon."

Scene 4: A court of justice in which the Ones Twos, Threes, Fours, Fives and Sixes make up the jury. Zero's testimony takes up most of the scene. He tells, inserting numbers now and then, how be killed his boss with the *bill file*, what his years of working were like, and how he just couldn't take the boss' talking and talking after he'd fired bim The jury rises as one, shouting, "Guilty." As they file out Zero asks them to stay, saying he's all mixed up with all those numbers in his head.

Scene 5: A young couple, Judy O'Grady and a young man are seen in a moonlit graveyard. They come upon a new grave, that of Zero, and Judy tells the Young Man how Zero was the cause of her being put in jail under the Tenement House Law. After they leave, Zero comes out of the grave saying he thought he had heard her voice. A loud sneeze startles him and Shrdlu, who welcomes him as a newcomer, appears. Zero finds that Shrdlu was also a murderer, but worse, because he killed his mother. Shrdlu says there'll be no rest for them, the sinners. The Head appears from another grave to quiet Zero and Shrdlu. Finally The Head throws a skull at the two talkers but they duck in time, so it yawns and disappears saying, "Ho-hum! Me for the worms!"

Scene 6: Amid pastoral loveliness Zero meets Shrdlu again. Shrdlu is concerned because he has been sent there, to the Elysian Fields, to stay until he "understands." He was all prepared to spend an eternity of punishment. Zero hears a woman's voice which turns out to be that of Daisy, who says she has been following him for days. Zero asks her what happened, if she got hit by a truck or something, and she tells him she too lost her job and just blew out the gas. She wants to talk things over with Zero; they discuss the store picnic they attended together when Zero's wife was gone and find each had wanted the other but had thought the other was unsympathetic. Daisy admits she blew out the gas because she didn't want to live without him. He wonders why he was so mean to her, bawling her out when she read the numbers too slow or too fast. She tells him to kiss her, which he does. They hear music which makes them dance until they are so tired they must rest, he with his head on her lap. They wish they could stay together in this place forever but they decide there is no chance since it is only for the good ones Shrdlu informs them they can stay but when Zero hears of all the people who are there, people who seem to waste their time on enjoyment and silly things like painting and writing songs, he decides to leave. Daisy says it makes no difference to her where she stays, "Without him I might as well be alive."

Scene 7: The curtain opens to the sound of an adding machine which Zero is seen operating in the midst of an office where he is surrounded by white paper tape. Lieutenant Charles and Joe come to tell Zero it's time to quit. They have to detach him from the machine forcefully. He's been working at it for 25 years. They tell him it's time for him to go back to earth, which Zero cannot believe as he thought he

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had done his bit on earth, but he is informed that this is merely a repair station for souls to be sent back again. Zero is also startled to find that he has been here before many times, as many different people, from a monkey to a serf, but always as some kind of slave. Charles tells him this time he will again be a baby and will grow up to the job of running a "superhyper-adding machine" which will record the output of each man in a mine and be operated with the big toe. Says Charles: "You're a failure, Zero, a failure. A waste product. A slave to a contraption of steel and iron. The animal's instincts, but not his strength and skill. The animal's appetites, but not his unashamed indulgence of them..." Zero begs to be allowed to stay, but Charles says he must go and tells him he can have a girl to keep him company at which Zero brightens up. Zero goes out following a woman whom he thinks he sees and whose voice he thinks he hears. At this Joe laughs causing Charles to punch him in the jaw and to tell him to get ready for the next fellow. As he drains a flask, Charles says, "Hell, I'll tell the world this is a lousy job!"

Each of the scenes has a different tempo: the first slow and free; the second slow and marked as if by a metronome; the third fast and marked; the fourth and fifth have retarded acceleration; the sixth is slow and expansive; and the seventh has the contrasting fast and slow tempo characteristic of all theater trial scenes. The overall rhythm is made up of three varied rhythmic sections corresponding to the three plays within a play. The first cycle includes the first four scenes, the second includes scenes 5 and 6; and the third cycle is that of the final scene. The sex interest is found in the first two cycles and corresponds in the first to the frustration of Zero's earthly life and in the second to his individual failure in the Elysian fields. The first scene results in a feeling of revulsion against the vulgarity of Zero's wife and the second scene in a feeling of impotence as it shows Zero's failure to recognize Daisy's love. In the second cycle the sexual feelings become positive and when an abandoned Daisy and a sedentary Zero make love in scene 6 there is a charm and warmth reminiscent of Morley's middle aged couple in the novel *Parnassus on W heels*, at least until Zero turns moralist and in refusing Daisy's love shows his now ingrained incapacity for any love.

The structure of reversals is one of which Aristotle wrote and which Hollywood uses every day. The beaten Zero revolts and with the audience's best wishes seems to be headed toward a solution. Then, when death ends his revolt and gives him the opportunity of a new life "in the sky," he fails to take advantage of it and ironically returns through "fate" or "inherent weakness" to his original futile earthly state. Zero's revolt, "while he is still alive, comprises the first cycle which was described when we considered the movement of the play. The entire cycle has dramatic interest despite the long opening and closing monologs. On the contrary the ironic reversals of the second and third cycles, despite the excellence of the love scene in scene 6, seem more nearly an extended anecdote or metaphor' than a pulsing human story. We cannot help but ask: If the "sky" is a better place to be than the earth, why is Zero, who was beginning to become a man through protest and action, a more miserable figure in the "sky" than amid the frustrations of the earth? The author is taking away the hope Zero and the audience clutched at.

The logic of the play is precise, according to the test of Price's proposition.

The setting for the play is an American city, shortly

after the first World War. The scenery exists principally to create an atmosphere by expressionistic means, such as papering the walls "with sheets of foolscap" which the author specifies for scenes 1 and 3. The newspaper and movie environment takes an important part in the action and it is mentioned in almost every scene. The tone of the play is always bitter and often ironic. Notable in this American version of expressionism is the plastic composition of scene 3 in which Zero's neighbors, One, Two, Three, Four, Five and Six and their wives come to visit. "Along each side wall, seven chairs are ranged in symmetrical rows," and when the neighbors enter "in a double column," each man takes a chair from the right wall amd each woman one from the left wall. "Each sex forms a circle with the chairs very close together. The men-all except Zero-smoke cigars. The women munch chocolate." The short machine-gun phrases of the banal conversation are usually fired in numerical order, Six through One in alternate masculine and feminine groups. This scene is a first rate example of the German expressionistic technique which Gassner characterizes as "mechanized stylization." *

The characters are all silhouettes, except Daisy and Zero, who really do not deserve the name of characters; neither is established in scene 2, nor is Zero in his trial monolog. Zero, in scene 5, only listens and makes innocuous comments on Shrdlu's story. It is only in scene 6 that Zero and Daisy are persons. In this scene a new interest and emotional warmth are built up only to be disappointed in scene 7 which serves only to conclude the anecdote. If scene 6 had been left out, the play would have been better proportioned, but in such a case it would have required a stylized scene of expressionistic fantasy to replace it. Another possible solution, which might have permitted the integration of the "warm" love scene with a concluding "judgment" scene, is the one used by Brecht in *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan*, but this would have required the recasting of all the expressionistic scenes into the popular style.

Stylistically *The Adding Machine* is a potpourri, chiefly expressionistic and therefore within the larger romantic style current. In part it is non-romantic fantasy (synonymous with an "intellectual anecdote"), it is symbolistic in its attempt to integrate and unify the play by centering it in Zero, and in other parts it is frankly representational as Gagey comments:

These plays borrowed the expressionistic technique from Eugene O' Neill or from his German models, thus departing from the photographic realism of the twenties. In spite of their imaginative treatment, they must be considered essentially realistic in purpose and effect. *

O'Neill's influence on Rice was considerable in those early years in which O'Neill was widely acclaimed as the saviour of the American theatre. But just as in any imitation, Rice's work which shows the O'Neill influence merely illustrates O'Neill's defects. In the last three scenes of *The Adding Machine* we find an absolutism more characteristic of the author of *The Hairy Ape* than of the author of *Street Scene*. The O'Neill environment of the "eternal," the "inexorable," the "inherent weakness or tragic flaw," and "fate" hangs in the air of Rice's Elysian Fields where the no-longer rebellious Zero knuckles under to his "destiny."

ZERO: Well, that ain't the point. The point is I'm through! I had enough! Let them find somebody else to do the dirty work. I'm sick of bein' the goat! I quit right here and now! (He glares about defiantly. There is a thunderclap and a bright flash of lightning.) ZERO: (Screaming). Ooh! What's that? (He clings to Charles.)

CHARLES: It's all right. Nobody's going to hurt you. It's just their way of telling you that they don't like you to talk that way. Pull yourself together and calm down. You can't change the rules, nobody can—they've got it all fixed...

Although not of the "pie in the sky" variety, this pat scheme of things does not fit well on the Elmer Rice we know as a perennial rebel, as the man who resigned as a Federal Theatre director because he felt it was compromised by logrolling and red tape in Washington. These Elysian Fields, redecorated as a Rousseauian jungle, would be a better habitat for Yank than for Zero.

If O'Neill influences Rice, there are also traces in O'Neill's work of Rice's influence. In many ways their relationship is similar to that between Andreyev and Gorky, whose theatre touched on the same questions and offered opposite solutions during the more than 10 years they dominated the Russian theatre. Gorky, like Rice, is a writer of protest; Andreyev, like O'Neill, is a cloudbound absolutist. It is interesting to see the machine-hate of *The Adding Machine* transformed in O'Neill's tragedy, *Dynamo*, 1929, into the quite serious proposal of machine worship. *Dynamo* is a lifeless play which only O'Neill and Henry Adams could appreciate because its author chooses a symbolistic "style." Such abstract social patterns as machine-worship can only be represented by the shorthand of expressionism.

Rice's other plays are predominantly naturalistic in style. An exception is found in the lyric overtones of *Street Scene*. The genres he has used are a Hauptmann variety of naturalistic "tragedy," in *We the People*; the romantic problem play in *Street Scene*; and in fact almost all the romantic genres. His particular specialty has been the protest play in the romantic style and the courtroom melodrama, such as *On Trial*, in the popular style.

The language of *The Adding Machine* is not particularized; it is all Rice's. Most memorable probably is the long monolog of Mrs. Zero in scene 1 which is magnificent in its vulgarity. Less interesting and perhaps too long is Zero's courtroom speech. There are several speeches in the final scene which are tiring in their length, and there are smart cracks, such as "Me for the worms!" at the end of scene 5, which might be distasteful to some persons.

Like all expressionist theatre, the play acts better than it reads, although some of the little gems of vulgarity gathered in reading are so subtle they might easily be lost on stage. Also, like other expressionist plays, it gives more importance to the action than to the character or dialog. The chief importance of The Adding Machine in the history of the American theatre is that it introduces German expressionism ¹⁰ into the United States; but we should remember that John Howard Lawson also gave us an expressionistic play in March of the same year. Of the two, Rice is perhaps by temperament more at home in the expressionistic style, but Lawson produced work of greater imagination and understood more clearly than Rice the American possibilities for expressionism were greatest in pure satire, and that mixing it with naturalism or prolix symbolism of a non-vehement nature could only result in artistic confusion.

The first American attempt to differentiate plastically between the inner and outer person is found in scene 2 when Zero and Daisy are seated on high stools before their bills and ledgers, lowering their heads to express their thoughts and raising them to express what they say openly to each other. Eugene O'Neill later used a similar technique in his *Great God Brown*, 1925, and *Strange Interlude*, 1928. The final scene of *The Adding Machine* shows lawyer Rice's predilection for trial scenes which begin with his first play in 1914 and continue at least through *Judgment Day*, 1934. In several of them he gets at his thesis in a final scene of "judgment" of the preceding action. He establishes a tribunal either in an actual courtroom or in a less formal location. This technique is similar to that of Bertold Brecht in *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan* and in *Der Kaukasische Kreidekreis* which in turn are "somewhat in the manner of Chinese theatre." ¹¹

The symbolic elements are found principally in two characters. Shrdlu represents American bigotry and the impossibly strict moral code which can produce only hypocrisy. He also represents the legend of the "steady" man, a legend invented by Americans of privileged position for exploiting the constantly arriving immigrant workmen, at least until the changes in the immigration laws after World War I. Zero is also a symbol of revolt until he ends his revolt after killing his boss. From then on he is, naturalistically and symbolically, a slave to business and the machine. Shrdlu is portrayed with an expressionistic technique characterized by subjective vehemence, while Zero is painted in a handful of dramatic substyles and is thereby blown up to a more vague and less effective symbol.

The literal meaning of *The Adding Machine* is the condemnation of the machine and the slave it makes of man. The hatred of the machine has its roots in a body of semi-Christian European beliefs of the nineteenth century. Centered chiefly in Germany and Russia, the idea was held that the only solution to man's slavery was the abolition of industry and the return to agriculture. The counterpart of these ideas among American workmen is expressed in the negro work ballad, *John Henry* in which the folk hero fights the machine and loses:

When John Henry was about three days old, Sittin' on his pappy's knee, He picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel, Cried: "Hammer'll be the death of me, Lord, Lord, Cried: "Hammer'll be the death of me."

The Captain said to John Henry, "I'm gonna bring that steam drill around; I'm gonna bring that steam drill out on the job, I'm gonna whop that steel on down..."

John Henry said to the Captain, "Bring that thirty pound hammer around; Thirty pound hammer with a nine foot handle, I'll beat your steam drill down..."

John Henry drove fifteen feet, The steam drill only made nine, But he drove so hard 'till he broke his poor heart, And he laid down his hammer and he died...

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Some say John Henry came from Texas, Some say John Henry came from Maine, But I say he's nothing but a Louisiana man, He's a leader of the steel drivin' gang...¹²

Gorelik tells us that German expressionism "was historically a movement of insurgent liberals, with standards of abstract justice and a message of good will, but without a clearly defined program. In practice the expressionist longing for 'a rationally ordered society based on the Christian ideal of social justice' meant a return to the ideals of the primitive Christian community...The social-democratic German government tolerated the expressionists and even encouraged them, considering their social doctrines harmless. The other

German workers' party, the communist, was more critical, maintaining that the proposal to abolish industry is destructive and defeatist,"¹³ It was a negative, disillusioned, pessimistic 11 solution, but there were certain grounds for pessimism after Marx, in Capital, had described from official Parliamentary reports what English industry was doing to English workmen. Expressionism did not see hope in the struggles of the Marxists, "few expressionist dramas were on a political plane." ¹⁶ After the failure of the Paris Commune of 1870 and the defections of the Socialists, especially the French and Italian, on the eve of the first World War, following previous pledges of non-participation in European armed conflicts, the expressionists accepted no positive ideas nor even political ones. A study of their plays reveals that the two chief themes are negative studies of war and revolution. At the time they wrote, the only hope in the workingman's world movement was the revolution in Russia, which was still fighting for its existence in a bloody civil war against a well organized reaction.

It is easy to see why German artists were bitter and without hope, especially if, coupled to this state of affairs, the artists' sensitivity goaded by middle class -vulgarity is considered. This double complex is well illustrated in the drawings and stage designs of George Grosz who influenced greatly both the expressionist and epic theatres. Grosz ¹⁶ is probably the European of a spirit most akin to the disillusionment of the American voluntary expatriate artists of the 20's and to the acid bitterness of Elmer Rice.

Such a spirit is best explained by the lack of a vantage point from which to attack the crystallized culture, controlled in its general expression by the shop-keepers and in its government and economic policies

by the capitalists. Comedy was outlawed in such a situation because it could find no vulnerable spots in the culture. The audience could only be outraged by jest and could not be made to laugh. Meredith¹⁷ complains of the lack of comedy in the solid Victorian world. Bentley ¹³ says the problem stated by Meredith was solved in the *fin de siecle* comedy of Oscar Wilde and deduces that Bohemianism was at that time the only position from which to look down on bourgeois culture For several French writers of the period the only vantage point was complete decadence. It was only with the appearance of Shaw and his intelligence that a position for rational critical comedy was established in England.

The twin European currents of hate for the machine and the disillusionment with the workers' defense against it spread through the entire occidental world of machine capital. They are associated with the historical process of economic concentration in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries which I believe neither Rice nor many antecedent thinkers fully understood. Neither capital (in the United States "business' is the euphemism by which "capital" has always been called, even by its enemies-example: the phrase "big business") nor the machine in a primitive stage is essentially the slave driver or abuser of the workman who operates them. The problem then is quantitative rather than qualitative. A study of history shows the innocuousness of the significant amounts of flexible and controllable capital in the Italian city states at the close of the middle ages. No Harry Bridges arose at that time in the defense of the Italian sailors, longshoremen and warehousemen. Likewise, we can hardly see how Watt's steam engine worked to the disadvantage of the miners when it was put to pumping out flooded mines. The abuse of the workman enters in the concentration of capital and machines and has its base in the obviously fictitious power of money: the possessor of any savings account knows that \$ 50,000 has more than 10 times the power of \$ 5,000 in the hands of the same man. This fiction makes any man's money depart from a linear function and approach multiple ones as it increases in quantity, until it attains a square or cube function when it is as concentrated as it is in the United States today. The contemporary cube function, or fiction, reaches its highest multiplicity when it is able to determine legislation (such as minimum wage and fair employment practices laws as it does today in the United States) and the policies of law enforcement bodies. The "payoff" part, we see, of the fictitious power of money is the addition of a politico-economic power to its simple economic one when the concentration is of national or international importance. This, of course, added to the fact that the simple economic power is non-linear ¹⁹ in even local concentrations.

The money terms we have used can be replaced by any other unit of capital (machines, for example) which is after all the authentic productive concentration, money serving only as a convenience and indicator in amortization and account keeping, and as a consumer of the less common metals. Nor is the machine the definitive unit in capital concentration; machines must be turned by something more powerful than men's arms or legs. We see today the transference of some of the most important capitals in the world to the control of the energy consumed by machines, and energy for destroying the machines of others. The machine limited to the combustion of wood or coal has been succeeded by the machine able to utilize flexible and liquid sources of energy such as petroleum, electric current, hydrogen peroxide, heavy water and uranium. Man's defense against the concentration of capital is no longer directed solely against the concentration of machinery, but also against the highly concentrated, man-controlled sources of energy. These last are, in effect, the most important capital in the contemporary "total wars." National aggression prompted by irresponsible individual capitalists gambles the entire public and private capital of machines and energy; the loser, particularly the workingman, finds himself in a destituted society.

Rice saw in part the historical process when he protested, not only against the machine, but also against what machines do to men when they are omnipresent and omnipotent. He caricatures the process of machine growth to dominance over its human slaves when in the final scene he returns Zero to earth to operate "not one of these antiquated adding machines... a superb, super-hyper-adding machine...without any human effort except the slight pressure of the great toe of your right foot." Zero too becomes a machine in the same process by which concentrated capital becomes a great machine which controls or eliminates the smaller machines and the human robots who operate them. This process can be synthesized in a variation of the delightful phrase through which the "survival of the fittest" theory was popularized in Spanish speaking countries: La maquina grande come a la maquina chica.

The 28 years since 1923 help to excuse Rice's partial failure to see the workings of economic concentration upon "the paid help," and he is not alone among American playwrights treating social problems in his lack of historical perspective. Some few have mastered a sort of *contemporary* criterion for viewing present day social forces and movements, and such a criterion we might call a shrunken dialectic, undynamic and absolutist because it has only a momentary basis. Only a wider knowledge of the history of many periods and peoples will bring a true perspective of historical processes and relations; and from the use of the word "relations" I hope it will be obvious that the only true method of historical analysis is a dynamic and *relativistic* one. Odets, Lawson and their equals are, at their best, momentary and absolutist in their analysis; there seems to be at this time no American dramatist with an adequate method for historical analysis of social problems.

The Adding Machine touches, in addition to the core meaning discussed above, other social abuses as material for protest. Among them is the white-collar vulgarity which is a "hand-me-down" of the bourgeois vulgarity, the same which made de Maupassant flee from the Eiffel Tower. Scenes 1 and 3 are magnificent expressionistic cinematic X-Ray photographs of the virus within its native habitat. Particularly effective are Rice's shorthand notes on the vulgarity of movieand-newspaper-formed attitudes. It seems that today the American people " have given up hope of correcting the vulgarity of the traditional media of mass communication and only upon the advent of a new medium do they seem to listen to protests against its prostitution, as may be seen in the current television controversy, although much of it is only a smokescreen for commercial conflicts.

American education also receives a back of the hand slap in passing. The final sentences of Rice's short condemnation suggest the absence of a wider cultural basis in a school system as provincial and specific as military training:

You'll learn to fear the sunlight and to hate beauty. By that time you'll be ready for school. There they'll tell you the truth about a great many things that you don't give a damn about and they'll tell you lies about all the things you ought to know—and about all the things you want to know they'll tell you nothing at all. When you get through you'll be equipped for your life-work. You'll be ready to take a job.²¹

Equally telling is the short, bitter caricature of discrimination against religious minorities and the economically determined "second-class citizens" who must be "kept in their place" so that the bourgeoisie and their, white-collar imitators may live comfortably, or at least "respectably":

SIX: Too damn much agitation, that's at the bottom of it; FIVE: That's it! Too damn many strikes. FOUR: Foreign agitators, that's what it is. THREE: They ought to be run outa the country. TWO: What the hell do they want, anyhow? ONE: They don't know what they want, if you ask me. SIX: America for the Americans is what I say! ALL: (In unison). That's it! Damn foreigners! Dawn dagoes! Damn Catholics! Damn sheenies! Damn Niggers! Jail 'em! shoot 'em! lynch 'em! burn 'em! (They all rise, sing in unison.)

"My country 'tis of thee Sweet land of liberty!"

Previously we discussed the bigot morality represented in Shrdlu, and related to it is a perverted sexual shame which is typified in the inane American small town "dirty joke." Sitting in the barber shop we may hear "the boys" reflect their wordly wisdom upon the latest front page smirk lascitivy or compare their cathouse exploits. "The boys," who have never been

lovers, not even their wives', remind us of Zero peeking across the court at the half-dressed whore and Zero refusing Daisy's love as not quite Puritan enough. Zero and "the boys" have been brought up so carefully they are incapable of sexual love, and by George they will run anybody out of town who tries to get away with it.

The American "success" myth is touched in passing as one of the articles of Mrs. Zero's white-collar credo. Her uppercut in the domestic quarrel monolog is that Zero has been 25 years a bookkeeper without a promotion, "What about bein' store manager? I guess you forgot about that, didn't you?" This holdover from the days of the "robber barons," whose youthful emulators were idealized in the Horatio Alger stories, gives the white-collar worker his scorn for productive labor and provides the climate of social morality in which the Costellos and Truman's "battery mates" can prosper. The "employee" holds the success myth as an inalienable right with the quiet hope that one day chance may make him a Costello too.

A final meaning which must be discussed is that of Zero's *inherent* cowardly slave mentality. "Why, all the bosses and kings that ever were have left their trade marks on your backside"—ever since Zero was a monkey. We learn that Zero was a slave several thousand years before the steam engine was invented.

Here Rice once again falls into the error of Eugene O'Neill's ways: Zero is a slave through some inherent human flaw which goes back to the dawn of the gods. I should like modestly to suggest to the contrary that a man acquires a slave mentality from being put into and held in slavery rather than from his gradual acquisition of attitudes requisite to his being admitted to the condition of slavery.

What might we find in the newspapers of 1922 which might have stirred Rice into writing this bitter condemnation of the very base of American life and attitudes? A great deal. In almost every aspect of American "culture" of the time the page is dirty. "Red hunting" was at a peak; the American Legion was out with its nightsticks; the Ku Klux Klan was riding at night in most parts of the country. Sacco and Vanzetti were in jail waiting death. The increase in the cost of living still ran far ahead of the wage increases since pre-war days. The striker had the choice of returning to work on the boss' terms or being shot by someone wearing the badge of authority of state or local governments. The federal government was openly in the hands of "business, for business." Daring plundering and bribe taking by the Custodian of Alien Property, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Interior, the chiefs in the Veterans Bureau and the Shipping Board and a member of the United States Senate occurred while the country had in its ears President Harding's ironic phrase, "Business as usual." The finest writers outside of the theatre had stayed or fled abroad, and the less artistic ones who remained in the States were gathering up shouts of protest.

Rice did not need to know history to write *The* Adding Machine; he could get most of his analysis from the daily newspapers which were as much as ever in the service of the "big lie," as Upton Sinclair's book ²² of three years before indicated, but even the big lie did not dare hide completely the moral bankruptcy of the country. The great jingo himself, William Randolph Hearst, his eyes on political office, had to stoop to a brand of Brisbane radicalism in his papers to court the wary, and weary, voter. Mutual suspicion, however, soured this wooing, and Hearst soon returned to his 200 percenter red-baiting and crime passional.

The line followed in *The Adding Machine* is repeated in others of Rice's plays and reveals certain consistent attitudes. The protest against uncontrolled capital ²³ is repeated in his important and first rate work, *Street Scene*, 1929. He is still a perennial rebel in his Federal Theatre days and in the later commercially unsuccessful management of his own theatre. He will be, at his death, the logical American inheritor of Swift's epitaph:

> Where savage indignation Can no longer tear his heart.²¹

His manner of thinking is radical but Jeremiac, and it has the limitation of being more doctrinaire than analytical. It is what might be called contradictorily a "chapter and verse" radicalism. His own suffering is apparent in his work and his biography shows us his lack of a secure vantage point from which to attack the abuses which have infuriated him. His temperamental problem as an artist is probably found in his shying away from a pure satiric expressionism in an attempt to give more human warmth to his work; but he suffers too much for it to be possible for him to acquire a positive outlook. His work is at best sympathetic rather than hopeful toward his characters.

Rice's influence on other playwrights has been greater than on the theatrical public. For the student of contemporary dramatic form the models include Rice, O'Neill and John Howard Lawson, the three most important innovators of forms in the American theatre, none of whom has written a play with enough exterior finish to win a great popular following or to be comparable with the best plays in such traditional forms as melodrama, sentimental comedy, etc. Rice's historical importance as the author of the first important twentieth century play of social protest is firmly established in the content of his work as well as in the form.

The specific importance of *The Adding Machine* resides largely in its being a "first," but the vulgarity of its first scene and the expressionistic vulgarity of scene 3 are as yet unsurpassed so far as this writer knows. Gagey's synthesis of the effect of the play in its own time seems a fair one:

not...unduly successful in the excellent Guild production but...wide critical interest.²⁵

The play contains a protest which is as valid today as when it was written, and it is Rice's most pertinent work. In some of his other plays he is more artistic, but in none is he so immediately and directly significant as in his first expressionistic play.

When we come to establishing the relative equilibrium between the content of *The Adding Machine* and its form, previously pointed out deficiencies in both must be remembered. The form shows a disconcerting mixture of theatrical styles, of rhythms, of characterization and of setting and tone, which forces the conclusion that the structure is that of three inner plays, or cycles, of contrasting form. One might call it, ungenerously, a fatal mixture of a satiric caricature with a warm character study and a naturalistic thesis scene.

In the content we have seen the corruptive traces of certain O'Neill-like absolutist predilections toward "eternity" and "fate" as well as an absence of a larger historical perspective in the analysis which Lewisohn also suggests is a requisite of expressionistic plays:

If this form of art is to be effective and beautiful, it must be very sensitive and very severe at once. Beneath it must be fundamental brain-work, thinking as resilient as steel and as clean cut as agate...You can describe fragmentarily and produce fragments of truth. Realism does not commit you to any whole. In expressionism the antecedent intellectual grasp of your entire material must be firm, definite, complete. Everything must be thought out and thought through. This is what, despite moments of highest brilliance and glow, Mr. Eugene O'Neill did not do in *The Hairy Ape*. This is what, in a harder, drier, less poetical vein, Mr. Elmer Rice has actually succeeded in doing in *The Adding Machine*.³⁰

Lewisohn's last sentence can be accepted as valid only as a comparison of Rice's success with that of O'Neill. My personal opinion is that Lawson's work is better "thought through" than Rice's. Lawson also furnished the first sure prediction as to the forms expressionism must take in the United States, and their dedication to biting caricatures of social satire, although he did not achieve a satisfactory dramatic synthesis of these directions before he left the theatre for screenwriting. Perhaps more finished, with the incorporation of music, than any of the expressionistic works discussed here is Marc Blitzstein's The Cradle Will Rock, 1938, which is as much a part of the current of light popular-style musical satires (characterized by Gilbert and Sullivan, by the American minstrel show, and by Kaufman and Ryskind's Of Thee I Sing) as it is a part of the expressionism found in Rice and Lawson. Both of the musical-playwriting teams have a vantage point within the ranks of the polite bourgeois reformers where they can write plays "funnier than the government, and not nearly so dangerous"²⁷ with a polite anarchistic contempt.

Blitzstein can participate in the popular style forms used in this bourgeois vantage point only by contradicting the romantic style of his protest, and he has no other vantage point because the contemporaneousness of his social analysis contains a historical perspective only slightly larger than that of Rice and Lawson. Perhaps it will be in the United States that expressionism will find its vantage point, historical social analysis, which will permit its biting, shorthand satiric caricatures to be persuasive as well as economical, truthful as well as poetic.

The Adding Machine, with its lack of equilibrium rendered less obvious by shortcomings of both form and content, is the most important single work antecedent to the firmly-seated American expressionist social theatre which lies with a vehement promise just over the horizon.

In Waiting for Lefty we saw, during the "depression" years, the proletarianization of the middle class. In The Adding Machine we saw no such process among the white collar employees, and to the contrary we saw the slavish imitation of bourgeois vulgarity and the belief in the success myth. In the next play to be studied we see the opposite process to that of Lefty, we see the success myth and the selling cult in full flower, we see the growth of contempt for honest labor in the son of a salesman, and we hear a protest against what the selling world does to the man who lives in it.

Lefty's truth stood for only a short period; a far larger number of years in each laissez faire "business cycle" shows an increasing number of workers in the United States acquiring bourgeois conveniences and with them bourgeois attitudes. The skilled worker drives the same car as the small merchant, clerk or salesman, he has the same furniture and the same number of household appliances, and he goes to the same movies and reads the same newspaper. He sends his son to college to study business administration and to have the "contacts" of a "good fraternity"; he accepts the success myth for his son. He may envision advantages for his son in the selling cult, advantages he as a worker didn't have.

The process is fairly recent, it begins with the Model T and the windup phonograph. Free enterprise mass production demands mass selling, the economy of abundance can expand only if the higher paid worker is included in its market. The warehouses glut if the worker does not spend every cent of his pay every week, and installment buying must absorb the surplus remaining after day to day expenditures. Industry must give a bourgeois income to some of its workers, and the success myth and the selling cult tl'ereby gain another neophyte, uneasy perhaps but still a believer. The gain of a good wage under these circumstances brings vulgarity, greed, social isolation and a disdain for labor.

On reading Death of a Salesman, the first question which occurs to the critic of the social theatre is, "In these days, when the American myth of business is receiving its most frenetic and reactionary defense, how could Arthur Miller cut the tap root of the American mythological tree without retaliation?" But after more study, the paradox becomes more understandable: the dramatic confusion and that of the thought behind the play makes Death of a Salesman tolerable to the coreligionists of the selling cult. The play does have a real impact, however, and the truth is that the rootmyth of the selling cult gets badly cut in the play. The force comes principally from the characterization, although the "poetry" of the author works against the criticism he attempts, and secondly from the dialog. Of less strength is the action, if we may call it such, which is of the "theme and variations" kind.

The other spontaneous reaction comes when the spectators leave the theatre. They realize they have seen one of the most powerful plays to be presented in recent years in the United States. They ask themselves, "All right, and what happens now?" and they are left without an answer. The play pronounces a hard moral judgment (which does not mean it is not pathetic) upon Willy Lomax, but it offers no solution for the hundreds of Willies sitting in the orchestra seats. There is a ray of hope, if we search it out. Perhaps Willy's son, Biff, will not follow in his father's footsteps. Perhaps he will find a useful job. Or will he continue being, not a Willy, but a bum? Who or what will give him the opportunity to realize his usefulness?

If there is a solution or a hope in *Death of a* Salesman, it is a small one and is beclouded by the deleterious elements.

A similar confusion is encountered in the formal analysis of the play. What is its genre? Its author calls it a tragedy, but if it is one, we must establish, after thumbing the pages of Diderot, a genre not yet accepted: the pathetic tragedy. Or is it a social protest play? If is, it does not have the clarity or the rebel emotion of *Waiting for Lefty*. Or does it belong to the genre, very much in fashion today in the American theatre, of the play of sentimental retrospect? But the plays of this last innocuous kind don't have the pretentiousness to cut the tap root of the American myth. What is it then?

It takes a part of all of these, some more, some less, and it reveals the same confusion as the critical thought of its author. All of these genres are new ones to Miller, who, in his previous play, *All My Sons*, wrote a melodrama complicated by the "character problem" subgenre. We have then a new genre and a mixed one.

Death of a Salesman is divided into two acts and a short requiem scene. All of the action occurs in the home of Willy Lomax except for the scenes at the beginning of Act II which are played in "insets" in front of the principal set. There is a short blackout in the second act to permit the inset to be lifted to the flies.

ACT ONE: Willy Lomax returns after having just started that morning on a long business trip because he couldn't continue driving, he kept going off the road. Linda, his wife, tells him he is too tired and too old to continue traveling and that he should ask his boss to transfer him to a job in New York. They talk of their sons, Happy and Biff, who are asleep in the bedroom overhead (also visible to the audience). Willy is disappointed in Biff because he has not "made anything of himself" even though as a boy in school he had been very popular. Biff wants to go back to Texas to become a cattle rancher. Willy wanders into the kitchen to get a sandwich and the light rises in the boys' room. They have overheard their father and are concerned about his having to drive so much. Both of them are undecided as to what they want to do. Biff tries to talk Happy into going back to Texas with him, and Hap tries to get Biff to go into some kind of selling with him.

The scene shifts back to Willy in the kitchen,

talking to himself, imagining that the boys (who appear there with him) are young again. They are polishing his car, happy that he has returned from a selling trip; Linda comes out into the yard and she and Willy talk of their many debts, the installments of which are greater than his weekly salary. Willy feels he is a failure as a salesman, but Linda defends him. The Boston woman appears, dimly seen, dressing and primping at an imaginary mirror. Willy tells her he will be back in about two weeks and asks her to come up again then. She disappears into the darkness and Linda and Willy continue talking. Happy comes downstairs in his pajamas (as the time again becomes the present), and he asks his father why he has returned form his trip. Charley, fram next door, enters the kitchen, Happy goes back to bed and Charley and Willy begin playing cards.

Willy and his brother Ben, who appears from out of the darkness, repeat a conversation they had years ago when Ben tried to persuade Willy to go with him to Alaska. Willy has since come to consider his not going the major mistake of his life. Charley leaves indignantly because Willy is paying no attention to his cards and is talking to Ben, who has been dead for two weeks. Linda appears in her nightgown and robe to ask Willy if he isn't ready for bed, but he goes off in his slippers for a walk. Biff comes down to the kitchen to talk to his mother about Willy. She reproaches Biff for being hateful to his father and asks him to stay home and be kind to Willy. Happy comes in and they learn that Willy no longer gets a salary, only a commission, after 36 years at his job. Biff says he will stay in the city although he hates it. Linda also tells her sons that Willy is trying to kill Limself. Biff promises he will go to his old boss the next morning to try to borrow money so that he and Happy can go into business together. Willy goes to bed happy, and the act closes as Biff takes from behind the water heater the rubber hose Willie has put there, to have it ready to attach to a gas jet.

ACT TWO: The following day. Willy, full of hope for Biff who has gone to ask for money from his old boss, goes to his own boss to request that he be allowed to work in New York instead of having to travel his New England territory. The boys and Willy are to meet in the evening for dinner. Willy's interview with Howard Wagner is disastrous, however; he is advised to quit completely for a time and to rest. Again Ben appears to tell Willy of Alaska, but Linda praises what Willy is doing. Willy's imagination takes him back to the day Biff played in an important game as a citywide football hero. The scene changes to Charley's office where Willy is forced to go again to borrow money. Charley, as he has done several times in the past, offers Willy a job, but Willy can't bring himself to accept it even though he has just been fired. Willy talks with Bernard, who had tried to help Biff with his studies during their boyhood, and who is now a successful lawyer; Willy tries to find out why Biff lost all interest the summer after he failed high school mathematics and couldn't go on to college. In turn, Bernard asks Willy what happened to Biff that summer when he went to Boston to see his father because from that time on Biff had lost his fight. Willy resents the question and doesn't answer.

The next scene takes place in the restaurant where Biff and Happy are to meet their father. Biff tells Hap of his day, how he waited six hours to see Oliver, who didn't even remember him. He has come to understand the false idea his family has of him and he realizes that he never worked for Oliver except as a shipping clerk and that he was fired for stealing merchandise. He is

determined to tell Willy the truth, what kind of man he knows himself to be, but when Willy arrives Biff can't speak out because Willy insists on his own imagined version of what happened in Oliver's office. Finally Biff brings himself to the lie that he has an appointment with Oliver for lunch the following day. Two girls Hap has picked up join the group at the table. They urge Willy to stay, but he leaves asking where the washroom is because he hears the Boston woman's voice offstage. Biff, Hap and the girls leave the restaurant as Biff asks his brother to do something for their father. The Boston woman enters, Willy following her, and the scene is that which Biff found when he went vears ago to see his father in New England after he had failed in mathematics. Biff is knocking loudly at the door, so Willy finally sends the woman into the bathroom and goes to the door. When she comes out while Biff is still there, Willy makes up several stories as to the reasons for her presence, but Biff is aware only that his father, whom he had loved and respected, is a fake.

The scene fades into one in which the waiter in the restaurant urges Willy to go home and which is succeeded by a scene in the kitchen of Willie's home in which Linda orders the boys to leave because of their desertion of their father in the restaurant. Biff wishes to talk to Willie and asks where he is. Willie is out in the garden doing some planting in the middle of the night which he had planned to do that morning because he had felt so optimistic. Willie talks to his brother Ben, telling him about his \$20,000 insurance policy and he imagines his massive funeral at which his sons will see how many friends he has and what a man he's been. Biff goes out to say goodbye to his father, wishing to do so in a friendly manner, but Willie recriminates him with having ruined his own life to spite his father. Biff tries to make him listen to the truth of what they both are:

"I'm a dime a dozen, and so are you!...I'm nothing, Pop. Can't you understand that? There's no spite in it anymore. I'm just what I am, that's all...Will you take that phoney dream and burn it before something happens?"

Biff goes to his room saying he will leave in the morning, and he leaves his father astonished in the realization that Biff loves him. Linda begs Willie to come to bed but he stays outside talking to Ben, until he suddenly realizes that he is alone. He tries to calm Linda as she calls him and to quiet all the sounds which rush down upon him. He runs off, and Linda and his sons hear the car starting and then hear it speeding away. The act closes as Hap and Biff put on their jackets and Linda, in mourning clothes, comes forward with a bouquet of roses to kneel at a grave.

THE REQUIEM SCENE: Linda stares at the grave, unable to understand, while her son and Charley try to get her to leave. She speaks of how Willy liked to build things: "You know, Charley, there's more of him in that front stoop than in all the sales he ever made." "Yeah," says Charley, "he was a happy man with a batch of cement." Biff says: "He had the wrong dreams... He never knew who he was." Biff again asks Happy to come away with him, but Hap has decided to stay in the city to beat the racket, to justify Willy's dream, "He had a good dream. It's the only dream you can have—to come out number-one man." Linda still can't understand, just that day she has made the last payment on the house, "And there'll be nobody home."

The movement of the play is based on a contrast of two tempos. The scenes in the present in which the entire family appears are in a slow tempo; more rapid are the insets of the dynamic brother, Ben, and the scenes in the past of the childhood of Willy's sons. The movement of the climactic scene, that of the restaurant and later the inset in the hotel in Boston, is more violent; the tempo is rapid and is accelerated by the sexual element. In the rest of the play the dejectedness of the characters accords with an unrealized sexual longing: Willy's only protest was expressed weakly, unconsciously and sexually. The rhythms are varied and contrasting. The principal one comes from the retardation of the action and the alternation of the present with the past, which gives an internal tension to almost all the play. This tension marks "the innate silent power" as of which Nathan speaks, but he is mistaken when he says, in another place, "though the play, because of its basic disorganized expressionistic form, is susceptible of strained effect, little sense of strain is felt by its auditors." 20

The tension results from the fact that the play has three lines of action: an internal one which is very well balanced with the two external ones in the past and in the present. The internal line is the revelation to Biff and to the audience of the falsity of Willy's values, and in this line are found the strongest emotions, introverted, of the play. One of the outer lines is found in the e x t r o v e r s i o n of Willy's daily life. The other external line is that of the past action presented, which also serves to reveal the falsity of the present, but without introversion. The audience participates in this revelation but Willy, never. Nathan says, "it touches these commonplace details with a sense of deep and pitiful recognition..."³⁰

The principal structure, as in the majority of contemporary American works, is that of retrospection, and perhaps the structure is the principal source of the dramatic confusion in *Death of a Salesman*. It is also "illustrative" in the negative sense which Lawson gives the term, because the actions do not depend on those which precede them. Willy's decision is evident at the end of the first act, but it is retarded during the entire sccond act without establishing any "new equilibrium," to use Lawson's phrase.

The action ³¹ can be contained in Price's proposition, if we assume that the play is a tragedy, which it is not, and if we assume that Willy is the hero:

A. Willy, rejected as a salesman, can choose another course or die.

B. Willy attempts various justifications of his present life and seeks another from his sons, without changing his course.

C. After knowing that he will not receive the justification of his sons, Willie also learns that they love him and decides to sacrifice himself in order to give them the only thing he can—the \$20,000 of his life insurance policy.

Despite the assumptions that the play is a tragedy and that Willy is its hero, the proposition is not very logical, and, worse, it does not indicate the real action of the play. The writer of this study doubts that the action can be fitted within Price's proposition.

As for the milieu of the play, first mention must go to the set and the lighting of Jo Mielziner, a real theatrical *lour de force*. It was so much so that there came a critical reaction against the "murky lighting" of Mielziner after this triumph in a style he had cultivated for several years. The scenery is completely transparent, to the point that we could say it almost doesn't exist. The directions of the playwright call for Willy's house to have three rooms and a backyard which can be used simultaneously, and even more, that for the scenes in the present the walls be observed and that for the scenes in the past the characters be able to pass freely through the walls. This technical miracle was brought to pass by Mielziner, along with another at the same time: that the audience should not be distracted by the first technical miracle, which through introverted means, induces a sentiment which creates the false extroverted environment of the selling cult and Willy. The environment takes a direct part in the action, giving Linda's last speech a profound tragic sense:

Willy, I made the last payment on the house today. Today, dear. And there'll be nobody home...⁸²

Another interesting effect is that of the individual musical backgrounds to prepare the entrances of some of the characters and to underline their parts in the action. Also the house is covered by fallen leaves on two occasions to supplement the sentiment of retrospection.

When we speak of the characters, the question immediately comes up, "Is Willy pathetic or tragic?"; but we shall leave the question for the later discussion of whether or not the play is a tragedy because the question of tragedy is integrally linked with that of the tragic hero. The evident is that Willy is a deep, complex and changeable character, even though he does not recognize himself as the audience does. Of the same roundness are Linda and Biff and they have equal or greater human warmth than Willy. Less round are Happy, Charley and Bernard, negative characters, but objectively presented. They are more nearly "types" because they do not alter the course of the action by their decisions.

The characters can be divided into three groups: (1) Willy; Linda, who, because she loves him, cannot see his self-deception; and his son, Happy, who says in his final line: "He had a good dream. It's the only dream you can have—to come out number-one man. He fought it out here, and this is where I'm gonna win it for him." ³³ (2) Biff who sees the falsity of his father's values, but who can't make a way for himself (3) Charley and his son, Bernard, who make their way in business without making the mistake of believing in the myth of "being a success by being liked" which Willy speaks of: "...it's not what you do, Ben. It's who you know and the smile on your face!...that's the wonder, the wonder of this country, that a man can end with diamonds here on the basis of being liked!" ³⁴ Ben represents something of the same attitudes as do Charley and Bernard, but cynically, and he is the anachronous and evident symbol of the robber barons of the past century in the United States.

Miller's style in Death of a Salesman is marked by force, internal tension, "reticence," ** and "no slightest pretentiousness" ** of the playwright. The play is built upon a complete illusion which manages not to break with the conventions of the set and staging, among them the radical time conventions reminiscent of futuristic painting in their multiplicity. It is only partially symbolistic for the reasons which we discussed previously: the play which contains parts of powerful symbolic detail cannot become a play which integrally is a symbol in itself. The plays of the vehement symbolic parts are the expressionist, not the symbolist ones.st There is no great contradiction in Miller's mixture of the expressionist and symbolist substyles because they are both romantic styles, or at least they lack unity no more than his mixture of genres. Miller has worked in several styles. In All My Sons he wrote a romantic problem play in the naturalistic substyle.

The language of *Death of a Saleman* is appropriate to the play if we forget its pretensions to tragedy. "The writing is simple," ³⁸ Nathan tells us. The dialog seems natural to the characters except in a half dozen "thesis speeches" and in the lyric lines about a "smile and a shoeshine." It is rich in the flavor of semiproletarian bourgeois groups of New York. If Bentley is speaking of the prose when he calls it "a false rhetorical mode of speech heard only on Broadway and in films, radio and political speeches," ³⁰ he has forgotten to what extent the speech of the selling cult is formed by Broadway, films, radio and political speeches. The prose is natural to the New York bourgeois. If Bentley is calling the "poetry" of the play "false rhetoric" he has a sturdier argument which he states better in another part of the same article:

It is interesting that critics who have never shown any love for poetry praise "Salesman" as a great poetic drama. The poetry they like is bad poetry, the kind that sounds big and sad and soul-searing when heard for the first time and spoken very quickly within a situation that has already generated a good deal of emotion. I think it was Paul Muni who made the classic comment that in this play you can't tell where the prose leaves off and the poetry begins. You can tell, though, that the prose is relatively satisfactory, the poetry ham; mere rhetorical phrasing, as witness any of the longer speeches. Indeed, this kind of poetry contributes very liberally to that blurring of lines which enables Mr. Miller to write a social drama and a tragedy at the same time and thus please all.⁴⁰

Miller's use of a Hollywood brand of poetry is probably intentional as a part of his attempt to ennoble the American salesman, an attempt which will be discussed along with his pretensions to tragedy. Nathan criticizes Willy for "such a bellowing," " but this is more a failing of the direction than of the text. Bentley praises Lee Cobb's "rock of a performance, strong enough to hold up any play...triumphant vindication of the Group's method." "

The play is for the theatre, not for the library, and Elia Kazan gave it a direction which took full advantage of Mielziner's scenery and showed that he is the equal of his maestros, Clurman and Strasberg. He has managed to combine their method with the speed and timing of an Al Wood comedy, and the result *plays*, it is magnificent theatre. At the writer's last report, October, 1950, *Salesman* was still continuing the run of some 600 performances which began Feb. 10, 1949.

The emotional impact comes primarily from the characterization, the "truth" of the characters and the sense of recognition which it produces in the audience, in spite of Nathan's opinion that "its end effect is rather acute depression..." ⁴⁸ This last is partly corrected by "the uncompromising honesty of its emotion" " and by the hope in the latent values of the son, Biff. Second in impact is the dialog which is rich, but not poetic except in one or two passages. The action, of the type of "theme and variations," does not carry as much emotion as do the characterization and the dialog.

Miller's contention that he has written a tragedy, stated in a summary of his dramatic theory, deserves examination. From his article published in the *New York Times* and reproduced in the programs for *Salesman.* we may select a few of his phrases which synthesize his idea of the "new tragedy":

...tragic feeling is evoked in us when we are in the presence of a character who is ready to lay down his life. if need be, to secure one thing—his sense of personal dignity...The flaw, or crack in the character, is really his inherent unwillingness to remain passive in the face of what he conceives to be a challenge to his dignity, his image of his rightful status...from this total onslaught by an individual against the seemingly stable cosmos surrounding us—from this total examination of the "unchangeable" environment—comes the terror and fear that is classically associated with tragedy...Now if it is true that tragedy is the consequence of a man's total compulsion to evaluate himself justly, his destruction in the attempt posts a wrong or an evil in his environment. And this is precisely the morality of tragedy and its lesson... The thrust for freedom is the quality in tragedy which exalts. The revolutionary questioning of the stable environment is what terrifies... and if this struggle must be total and without reservation, then it automatically demonstrates the indestructible will of man to achieve his humanity... The possibility of victory must be there in tragedy.

We see in the first four phrases that all are based upon a man's struggle: the tragic feeling, the tragic flaw of the hero, the terror and fear and the morality of the tragedy. This struggle, also, in the last phrase, "demonstrates the indestructible will of man" and "the possibility of victory." In addition to the struggle, we have in the next to the last phrase "the thrust for freedom" which exalts and "the revolutionary questioning" which terrifies.

In synthesis then, Miller's definition of tragedy is that of a revolutionary struggle toward freedom. Such a definition can be applied to *Waiting for Lefty* and to *Bury the Dead* better than to *Salesman* because the protagonists of the first two plays make a greater struggle than Willy. Despite all argument, none of the three is a tragedy, and Miller's definition perfectly fits the revolutionary play of social protest, but not the tragedy.

This discussion brings us to Willy's "struggle." Is Willy a tragic hero or simply a pathetic character? Perhaps it would be best to cite another passage from Miller's dramatic theory:

The possibility of victory must be there in tragedy. Where pathos rules, where pathos is finally derived, a character has fought a battle he could not possibly have won. The pathetic is achieved when the protagonist is, by virtue of his witlessnes, his insensitivity, or the very air he gives off, incapable of grappling with a much superior force.

By Miller's own definition, Willy is, in the opinion

of the present writer, a pathetic protagonist and not a tragic one. Another proof, then, that Salesman is not a tragedy is its lack of a tragic hero. After all, it matters little if the play is or is not a tragedy; certainly it is an excellent social drama. The critic who wishes to prolong the controversy about "the tragic" may begin with Aristotle and conclude with the article of Rodolfo Usigli in *Cuadernos Americanos*, number four, of last year. Also, if time permits, there are several hundred "philosophers" of idealistic aesthetics between the two authors mentioned above.

We shall not search any further in the history of the theatre for the mixed genre of Salesman now that all three genres have been previously analyzed in this study, as has the expressionistic style; but we must mention a question which Usigli raises in his article published in Novedades, Oct. 8, 1950: "Is the symbolistic style of staging appropriate to the tragedy"? We must agree with Usigli, I think, that it is not. Even if symbolism should arrive at definite forms, instead of taking over "the new stagecraft" in toto, and at a characteristic content, it is still a substyle of the romantic current, in which the latest attempts at tragedy were Hauptmann's naturalistic variety and Andreyev's "symbolistic" one. The world has shown little liking for romantic tragedy from the pen of a lesser man than Shakespeare, and even in terms of Shakespeare I personally will take one classic Othello in preference to the sum of Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, and Macbeth.

Among the symbolic elements of the play, the most important are found in two characters: Ben, discussed previously, and Biff. The latter represents the hope of the play, he is the tormented one, he symbolizes the only escape from the "wrong or evil in the environment" that is his father's, he is searching for usefulncss. All his "thrusts toward freedom" have been frustrated, despite his "revolutionary questioning" of Willy's values. He represents rebellion but he offers us no solution. Of what, then, is he a symbol? He is the symbol of a negative solution which does not demand even one positive action, and this suggests the principal fault of *Salesman*. What is the audience supposed to do now? Found an asylum for the pathetic Willies or order them all to commit suicide? Give a productive job to the tormented Biffs or send them all to the mythical and Chateaubriandesque Texas of the "noble savages"?

Perhaps there is more to be gained from citing the symbolic speech which includes the thesis, lirically expressed, of the play and to compare it with its antecedents:

CHARLEY... To Biff: Nobody dast blame this man. You don't understand: Willy was a salesman. And for a salesman, there is no rock bottom to the life. He don't put a bolt to a nut, he don't tell you the law or give medicine. He's a man way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine. And when they start not smiling back—that's an earthquake. And then you get yourself a couple of spots on your hat, and you're finished. Nobody dast blame this man. A salesman is got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory.⁴⁵

This can be compared with the final stanza of a poem by Carl/Sandburg called "The Lawyers Know Too Much":

The work of a bricklayer goes to the blue. The knack of a mason outlasts a moon. The hands of a plasterer hold a room together. The land of a farmer wishes him back again. Singers of songs and dreamers of plays Build a house no wind blows over.

The lawyers—tell me why a hearse horse snickers hauling a lawyer's bones.

There are four principal literal meanings in Death

of a Salesman: three negative and one positive. The negative ones are (1) the falsity of the selling cuit, its "false standards and self-deception" ¹⁰ (2) "being liked" is not enough among those who profess the selling cult (3) the jungle out of which uncle Ben came with his diamonds is precisely the place for him and his anachronous colleagues, the "rugged individualists." All three have been discussed previously. Nathan mentions other negative meanings of less importance:

And the point of view throughout, in its challenge of popular conceptions, is strikinely intelligent. The popular credos that nothing is more valuable to a man than being liked; that sincere, hard work is bound to reap its ultimate reward; that children, even if they conceal the fact, have an inborn love for their parents; that loyalty is always a virtue; and that only the incompetent fail in this world—such beliefs, with no show of facile cynicism, Miller punctures.⁴⁷

The positive point, that of the value of work with the hands, merits a deeper examination. It appears in many of the "thesis speeches":

A man who can't handle tools is not a man. You're disgusting. ¹⁵

I don't care what they think! They've laughed at Dad for years, and you know why? Because we don't belong in this nuthouse of a city! We should be mixing cement on some open plain, or—or carpenters. A carpenter is allowed to whistle.¹⁹

'Cause I got so many fine tools, all I'd need would be a little lumber and some peace of mind.⁵⁴¹

There were a lot of nice days. When he'd come home from a trip; or on Sundays, making the stoop; finishing the cellar; putting on the new porch; when he built the extra bathroom; and put up the garage. You know something, Charley, there's more of him in that front stoop than in all the sales he ever made.³¹

In the American theatre, the direct antecedent for this exaltion of manual labor is found in *The World We Make* (1939), dramatized from *The Outward Room* by Millen Brand. It concerns a mental patient who escapes from a hospital and resolves her psychological difficulties through work in a steam laundry and through the love of one of the workers there. Naturally, too, the name of Maxim Gorky comes immediately to mind as the greatest apologist for work in recent times.

The moral judgment of the play falls upon Willy and the environment which produced him and in which he falsely believes. It is a hard judgment and without pity in spite of the pathos of the character.

The condemnation of the selling cult is linked with a sentiment common to many American writers and artists of the period between the two world wars. Among them there were Carl Sandburg and Sinclair Lewis and the voluntary exiles of the twenties. But they were not a large number until the end of the second World War when a widespread reaction was revealed among veterans against the selling life. The G. I. Bill of Rights gave many of them the opportunity to drop their previous projects and educations directed toward the great advertising industry, and other similar ones, in order to make a fresh start. It is a curious group, this army of student veterans who go in varied and strange directions, but the characteristic common to all is their rejection of the selling cult. Among them are those who wish to learn the trades of artisans, the aesthetes who pursue the end of "art for art's sake," the homosexual aristocrats, the future university professors, the escapists, those who search for a "culture" in foreign lands in order to bring it later as missionaries to their savage land, the dilettantes, the future writers, artists and social reformers of the United States. They remain for the moment a large question mark; they are just now beginning to finish their studies. It is certain, however, that they are not selling anything; those who wanted to sell returned early from their military service to the show windows and sample cases which were awaiting and calling them. Miller, although he wasn't a soldier, lived among them in order to collect material for his reportage *Situation Normal*, and the movie, *G. I. Joe.* He captured many of the deepest feelings of the citizen-soldiers, and certainly his protest against the selling life is more influenced by the citizenveterans than by the writing of the preceding generation.

Miller, during all of his writing career, has been a leftist, but his social thinking is marked more by generalized feelings than by any logical and consistent observation. He has not concentrated his fire; his attention to the timely and his lyrical and his idealistic tendencies have taken away a part of the social impact of his plays. His method has been more eclectic than radical, and his writing shows more talent than conviction. We are not impressed to learn that Miller spent two and a half years as a stock clerk saving the money to enter the University of Michigan. After graduating in 1938, he joined the Federal Theatre for a short time until it was curtailed. Then he wrote radio drama scripts, short stories, a book of reportage, and in 1945 a novel about anti-Semitism, Focus. Since then (a play in 1944, The Man Who Had All the Luck, was unsuccessful on Broadway), Miller has written almost exclusively for the theatre and has several pieces which have not been produced. Despite his writing on jobs commissioned by both the important national labor organizations, and his dedication of "a few weeks each year" to an occupation to be added to the list Chapman ⁵² gives us. Miller seems to have no real connection with the workingman's life he suggests as an alternative to the selling cult in *Death of a Salesman*. His solution, and to some extent Miller himself, remains a theory and perhaps only a sentiment.

The importance of Death of a Salesman since its opening in 1949 has been considerable as theatrical art, but its influence as a social protest has been felt less. It continues its run on Broadway without any indication of closing soon. It won the Pulitzer Prize, the Critics Circle Award, the Antoinette Perry Award, the Theatre Club Award, and the "Front Page" Award for the 1949 season. The first two are the most highly recognized theatre awards in the United States. The blurbs on the dust jacket of the Viking Press edition of the play contain more superlatives signed by more well-known New York reviewers than the writer of this study remembers being given to any other contemporary American play. Bentley calls it a "signal event in New York theatrical life" 58; Nathan is the only critic who has no superlatives for it.

The play is typically American in content, and perhaps we could say also that it is typical in its confusion. Certainly it is not a universal dramatic work, nor will it be until the day the selling cult is universally accepted, an improbability now that the social struggle proceeds upon other bases in almost the entire world. Could it have much meaning in Mexico? Probably not, except among a small audience in the capital. Despite certain superficial symptoms, such as the Lions Clubs, the Rotarians, the Shriners and the American Chamber of Commerce, the selling cult really has no large number of neophytes in Mexico, largely, I suppose, because most of Mexico remains on a "non-money economy." ⁵⁴

Granted its confusion, *Salesman*, thanks to its artistic superiority, is a more effective protest than *All My Sons*.⁵⁵ But most of its virtues lie in its theatrical form, not in what it says; it is fine theatre, not drama. When the form is so completely predominant over the content, there is no possibility of considering *Death of a Salesman* as an equilibrated work which might become one of the measures in the history of the theatre.

The play is very good, however, and the persistent question keeps returning, "What if Miller had concentrated on cutting the tap root of the American myth. instead of merely cutting off its foliage along with that of other myths which have long preoccupied the orthodox mind?" Ah, that would have been *something*—something which would probably have put the name of Arthur Miller on the title page of the best American drama. As the synthetical, but not too syntactical, Alfredo Segre says, "He risked a masterpiece."

NOTES FOR CHAPTER FOUR

¹ Gagey, op. cit. p. 133.

² When I mentioned, to a friend who works in the theatre, the protest plays I was studying, he asked with good reason, "What about *Uncle Tom's Cabin?*" It was the first dramatic protest in the United States with a content both significant and widely discussed, but its form is neither dramatic nor comparable to the form of the seven plays discussed in this study. The adaptation from the novel is more cinematic than dramatic, as may be seen from the "Programme" given the audience for its geographic orientation:

ACT I—Exterior of Uncle Tom's Cabin on Shelbey's Plantation; Negro Celebration. Chorus, "Nigga in de Cornfield"; Kentucky Breakdown Dance; Innocence Protected; Slave Dealers on hand. Chorus, "Come then to the Feast;" the Mother's Appeal; Capture of Morna (Eliza); Interior of Uncle Tom's Cabin; Midnight Escape; Tom driven from his Cabin; Search of the Traders; Miraculous Escape of Morna and her Child. Offering Prayer; the Negro's Hope; Affecting Tableau.

ACT II—Family Excitement; Dark Threatenings; Ohio River Frozen over; Snow Storm; Flight of Morna and her Child; Pursuit of the Traders; Desperate Resolve and Escape of Morna on Flowing Ice; Mountain Torrent and Ravine; Cave of Crazy Mag; Chase of Edward; Maniac's Protection; Desperate Encounter of Edward and Traders on the Bridge; Fall of Springer down the Roaring Torrent; Negro Chorus, "We Darkies Hoe the Corn;" Meeting of Edward and Morna; Escape over Mountain Rocks.

ACT III-Roadside Inn; Advertisement Extraordinary;

the Slave Auctioneer; Rencontre between Edward and Slave Dealers; Interposition of Crazy Mag; Arrival from the West Indies; Singular Discovery. Mountain Dell; Recognition of Lost Mother; Repentance and Remorse; Return of Tom; the Log Cabin in its Pride; Freedom of Edward and Morna &c.

The titles of two plays of the first decade of this century have been mentioned in lists of early American stage protests: *The Witching Hour* by Augustus Thomas, and *The Great Divide* by William Vaughn Moody. The first reveals, in the first act that Jack's gambling house in Louisville has had police and judicial protection and thereafter leaves the question for the more fantastic kinds of psychic phenomena. The second play, by a playwright better known as a poet, is a serious piece of social criticism, but it is too generalized to be called a social protest. It is rather a play which belabors orthodoxy in favor of heterodoxy, as did Shaw's, according to Henry L. Mencken, *George Bernard Shaw His plays.* (Boston and London: John W. Luce and Co. 1905).

We have no other choice but to take Aria Da Capo as the first real American protest in a finished artistic form and *The Adding Machine* as the first important protest play to appear on Broadway. Naturally such isolated "firsts" do not make up a theatre movement, and the thriving social protest theatre did not appear until the end of the "chicken in every pot and a car in every garage" era.

³ Gagey, *op. cit.* p. 152.

⁴ Ludwig Lewisohn, "Creative Irony: Mr. Rice's The Adding Machine" in Montrose J. Moses and John Mason Brown, The American Theatre as Seen by its Critics 1752-1934. (New York: W. W. Norton and Company. c1934). pp. 196f.

⁵ The mixture of styles in *The Adding Machine* helps produce a similar confusion among critics as to its genre. Sobel, *op. cit.* surpasses all his colleagues for faulty vision when he calls it a "fantasy-tragedy." p. 36. • The first cycle of *The Adding Machine* corresponds to Polti's eighth situation, revolt, but the second and third cycles correspond to none of the 36 situations of Polti. We might invent a thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth situation, rejection for the first cycle, and condemnation for the third cycle.

⁷ "Elmer Rice is less at home in the fantasy than in the earlier, more realistic scenes..." Gagey, *op. cit.* p. 151.

- ⁸ Gassner, Masters of the Drama. op. cit. p. 485f.
- ⁹ Gagey, op. cit. p. 150.

¹⁰ What appears to be confusion among the critics as to the forms used in expressionism results from the meagreness of their descriptions and a failure to separate form from content. Formal elements may be fished one or two at a time from the intelligent but limited discussions of Gorelik, Gassner, Barrett H. Clark, Bernhard Diebold and Usigli, What the forms were aimed at, not what they were, is best summed up by Lewisohn, op. cit. p. 196: the inner life objectified, the outer life synthesized. The most satisfying approach is to work from the content to the forms found in the plays themselves, but a more rapid overall picture can be obtained from an analogy in the plastic arts: four great caricaturists, Hogarth, Goya, Daumier and Jose Clement Orozco. Their inferior, George Grosz, should be studied for his direct connection with the local conditions which produced German expressionism in the theatre.

¹¹ Bentley, The Playwright as Thinker, op. cit. p. 263.

¹² Text from *The People's Song Book*. (New York: Boni and Gaer. c1948). p. 8.

¹³ Gorelik, op. cit. pp. 251f.

- ¹⁴ Gassner, Masters of the Drama. op. cit. p. 489.
- ¹⁵ Gorelik, op. cit. p. 252.

¹⁰ George Grosz, *A Little Yes and a Big No*: the Autobiography of George Grosz, Illustrated by the Author. (New York: The Dial Press. 1946).

¹⁷ George Meredith, An Essay on Comedy: and the Uses of the Comic Spirit. (London: Constable and Company, Ltd. 1915). pp. 23-30, 62f., 69, and 85-88 contain a maximum of theory and a minimum of rhetoric.

¹⁸ Bentley, The Playwright as Thinker. op. cit. p. 177.

¹⁰ Notwithstanding Marx's error in giving a non-linear multiple power to concentrations of laborers because of their "social enthusiasm," the simple economic power of concentrated local capital leaves off a linear function and approaches that of the square. The difference is obvious: 50,000 workmen under a single boss do not all "think like" the boss, but 50,000 dollars in the hands of a single man are in complete agreement with him.

²⁰ A notable recent exception, Gilbert Seldes, *The Great Audience*. (New York: Viking. 1950).

²¹ Elmer Rice, "The Adding Machine" in *The Theatre Guild Anthology*. (New York: Random House. c1936). p. 269.

²² Upton Sinclair, *The Brass Check*: a Study of American Journalism. (Pasadena, California: Published by the Author. 1920).

²⁸ Gagey, op. cit. p. 149.

²⁴ Leslie Stephen, *Swift*. (London: MacMillan and Company, Ltd. 1927). p. 209. "He was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral, and over his grave was placed an epitaph, containing the last of those terrible phrases which cling to our memory whenever his name is mentioned. Swift lies, in his own words—

> Ubi saeva indignatio Cor ulterius lacerare nequit."

²⁵ Gagey, op. cit. p. 151.

²⁶ Lewisohn, in Moses and Brown, op. cit. p. 196.

²⁷ Brooks Atkinson, "Of Thee I Sing" in Moses and Brown, *op. cit.* p. 300.

²⁸ George Jean Nathan, *The Theatre Book of the Year* 1948-1949: A Record and an Interpretation. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1949). p. 281.

- ²⁰ Ibid. p. 280.
- ³⁰ Nathan, op. cit. p. 282.

³¹ Of Polti's 36 situations, *Death of a Salesman* corresponds to number 33, erroneous judgment, and to number 21, self-sacrifice for kindred.

²² Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*, (New York: The Viking Press. 1949). p. 139.

- ³⁸ Idem.
- ³⁴ Ibid. p. 86.
- ³⁵ Nathan, op. cit. p. 281.
- ³⁶ Ibid. p. 280.

³⁷ Gorelik, *op. cit.* p. 248. "But on the whole the distinguishing feature of Expressionism would seem to lie elsewhere—in a symbolism notable for the vehemence of its symbols."

³⁸ Nathan, op. cit. p. 279.

³⁰ Bentley, "Back to Broadway" in *Theatre Arts*, vol. xxxiii, no. 10. November, 1949. p. 13.

40 Idem.

⁴¹ Nathan, op. cit. p. 281.

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- ⁴² Bentley, "Back to Broadway" op. cit. pp. 12f.
- 43 Nathan, op. cit. p. 280.
- 44 Idem.
- ⁴⁵ Miller, *op. cit.* p. 138.
- ⁴⁶ Nathan, op. cit. p. 280.
- 47 Ibid. p. 284.
- ⁴⁸ Miller, op. cit. p. 44.
- 49 Ibid. p. 61.
- 50 Ibid. p. 72.
- ⁵¹ Ibid. p. 138.

⁵² John Chapman, *The Burns Mantle Best Plays of* 1948-49: and the Year Book of the Drama in America. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company. 1949). p. 368.

⁵⁸ Bentley, "Back to Broadway" op. cit. p. 12.

⁵⁴ Seymour E. Harris (Ed.), *Economic Problems of Latin America.* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1944). p. 373.

⁵⁵ Nathan, op. cit. p. 283.