

modern history, Western Europe is consuming nearly sixty per cent more goods and services than before the war; gross national product has risen by some seventy per cent since 1938 and industrial production is more than twice as large.

THE STORY of Europe's phenomenal recovery from the devastation and dislocation of the Second World War is closely linked with a brilliant and unique initiative of American diplomacy. The Marshall Plan did more than boost Europe's trade and production through the infusion of American goods and dollars; it prepared the way for the European Economic Community, or Common Market, by inducing the Europeans to work together within the Organization for European Economic Cooperation. (Former Under Secretary of State Will Clayton now recalls that the American proposal for an OEEC caused the Russians to walk out of the first Marshall Plan meeting in 1947 and to force Poland and Czechoslovakia to withdraw their tentative acceptance of Marshall Plan aid. The Soviet leaders realized then, he concludes, that such a group might one day become an effective roadblock to their ambitions.)

It is fashionable in certain European and even American circles to lament the "Coca-Colonization" of European life. Along with higher incomes, more consumer goods, and greater leisure, there has also been a marked increase in advertising, high-pressure salesmanship, and buying on the installment plan. The maid shortage is bringing demands for labor-saving household appliances of all kinds, for "convenience foods" and all sorts of do-it-yourself gadgets.

But the authors of this new study emphasize that these changes cannot be adequately explained as a mere import from an alien continent. Instead, they "appear to be the ultimate and inevitable consequences of developments common to both continents: industrialization, urbanization, higher productivity, rising incomes, mass production and technological progress."

What economists term America's "demonstration effect" is being felt in Europe in other and more constructive ways. The study takes note

of the emergence of a new attitude on the part of consumers and suppliers alike: "What was formerly a class society characterized by differences in income and manner of living has become a much more democratic community with a much narrower range of spendable income."

Although the countries of Western Europe—including their Socialist Parties—have rejected doctrinaire socialism, they have all fully accepted the welfare state. Governments have come to accept responsibility for promoting full employment and economic growth and for protecting the individual against economic hazard. "It is a paradox," the authors conclude, "that it is the countries of Western Europe, in which capitalism is experiencing a dynamic revival, rather than those of the 'socialist camp,' that have moved so rapidly toward the communist goal: from each according to his abilities, to each according to his need."

The essential inspiration for the Common Market, quite apart from American diplomatic prompting during the Marshall Plan days, came originally from our side of the Atlantic. If the economics of the Common Market have their roots in the gospel of mass production and mass distribution according to Henry Ford, its politics go back to the gospel of Federalism according to Hamilton, Madison, and Jay. We Americans seem strangely slow to recognize that *E pluribus unum* is a bolder and more universal concept than the divisive appeals to nationalism and class struggle emanating from Moscow and Peking. « »

Pathetic Fallacy

GOUVERNEUR PAULDING

WATCHERS AT THE POND, by Franklin Russell. Drawings by Robert W. Arnold. Knopf. \$4.50.

Where the walks of the formal park converge, a fountain plays. Sunlight brightens the slow, ever-descending spray. Carried by the lightest breeze, the spray drifts this way or the other, touching now the glistening marble statue of Spring and now that of

Summer, fruit-bearing Ceres, and now that of pensive Autumn—but all the statues are pensive, even the young girl who is Spring—and now that of Winter, contemplating, no matter what may be the month, the elms, the oaks of the park that will be leafless in her season.

Thus man endows the four seasons with a formal mien; he fits, perforce, his own life to their cycle. Self-centered, he draws or attempts to draw some degree of serenity from the fact of their recurrence; he gazes upon winter, that image of death, and then proceeds through endless variations of poetry and song to reassure himself that spring cannot be far behind. Spring—and then it is but a step to his dream that life must be eternal.

THERE ARE NO STATUES round the pond, somewhere in Canada, that Franklin Russell has so meticulously observed. It would not be possible to erect any tranquil personification for the uncountable forms of life the pond nourishes, for the uncountable forms of death, for the unspeakable hazards of renewal. The four seasons are there, of course—and it is upon their cycle that this naturalist and poet has patterned his book—but there is too great a violence, life and death alternate too rapidly, too hastily, without waiting for the expected season, for man to see any tranquil reflection of his own existence. In and about the pond the struggle for life, in which man has always considered that he was taking part, is fought at so fervid and relentless a pace that nothing man must deal with—the plague, the seas, hunger, or war—can be measured against the scale of that struggle's prodigious intensity. Nor can any of man's images express its unexpected, contradictory episodes. In nature there are no seven ages of man.

Life indeed is reborn with spring. All through the winter myriads of creatures slept deep beneath the ice of the pond. With the coming of spring it was as if billions of stars exploded into billions of fragments: the pond erupted into life. But what is spring to the fairy shrimp? "Under thick ice in suffocating water, the dormant eggs of fairy shrimp had hatched into nauplii, tufted embryos

each with a single eye. These moved to the undersurface of the ice. . . . the nauplii hatched into twenty-two-legged creatures, which swam off on their backs through the dark water with rhythmic sweeps of upward-thrusting legs. They would grow quickly, assuming tints of green, pink, and bronze. Unlike other life, they would not be stimulated by warmth, and the thaw would kill them. For the moment they thrived in near-freezing water and would soon drop dormant eggs, which would turn into nauplii in the fall. As the pond warmed slightly, the fairy shrimps would sink, dying, to the bottom."

Or how measure the brevity of what we call love to the May flies? "Countless May fly larvae were ready to leave the water where they had lived for a year or more. Now, each with six legs working, they headed for the surface by climbing up the stalks of lilies and cattails, bulrushes and hornworts, star grasses and smart-weeds. They paused in the shade of pickerelweeds leaves, in plantain and arrowhead and bur reed and pitcher plants. They waited as the sun moved around them, then began shucking off their larval skins. They squeezed into the sunlight, showing the tracery of veins in their wings and long trailing caudal tail plumes. But instead of flying, they waited. Soon they began shedding another skin, this time a fine transparent sheath, and in this last transformation their delicacy was ultimately refined. They rose into the liquid air in the last blush of the setting sun. . . . their emergence, instead of being a triumphant beginning of life, was an anticlimactic end. They would mate and die without ever attempting to eat."

SUCH PASSAGES show the quality of Mr. Russell's writing, and something else: there is not a paragraph in *Watchers at the Pond* that can be read hastily—at least by anyone who for years has lived in cities. Every noun—the bumblebee, the hawk, the ant, the spider, the snail, the firefly, the raccoon—must first be reordered in the memory of a country childhood or a vacation, given its color and size, before one can proceed with this magnificent account of struggle and destiny.

The Wind Blows Sharp on Capitol Hill

. . . and gusts of eloquence have just hit the bookstores in Edward Boykin's new book,

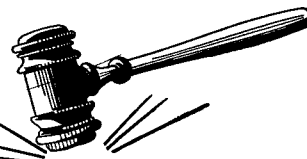
THE WIT AND WISDOM OF CONGRESS

Whatever the subject—draw poker, fried oysters, potlikker, or how to handle Khrushchev—Congressmen are never at a loss for words, and in this rollicking book, editor Boykin has sifted tons of legislative verbiage for bits of humor, malice, horse sense, and purple oratory. The result is a happy one—a spirited exposé of our lawmakers at work from 1789 to the present.

Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson says: "The very title 'The Wit and Wisdom of Congress' is testimony to one of the glories of a free society: that its legislative body is allowed to have both. I congratulate the author on a delightful collection of excerpts which should give readers not only a chuckle, but a pride in their government."

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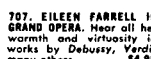
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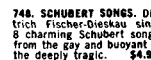
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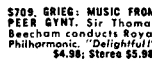
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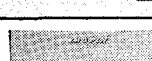
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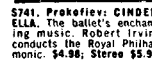
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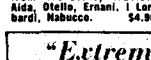
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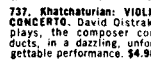
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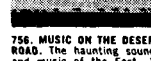
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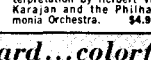
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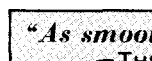
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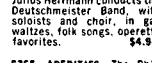
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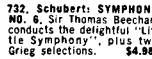
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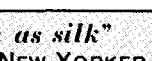
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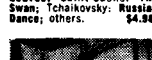
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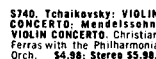
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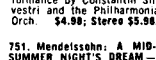
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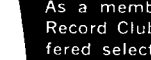
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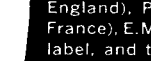
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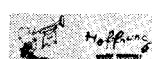
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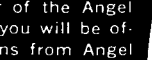
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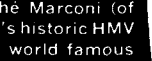
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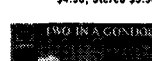
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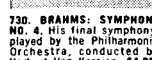
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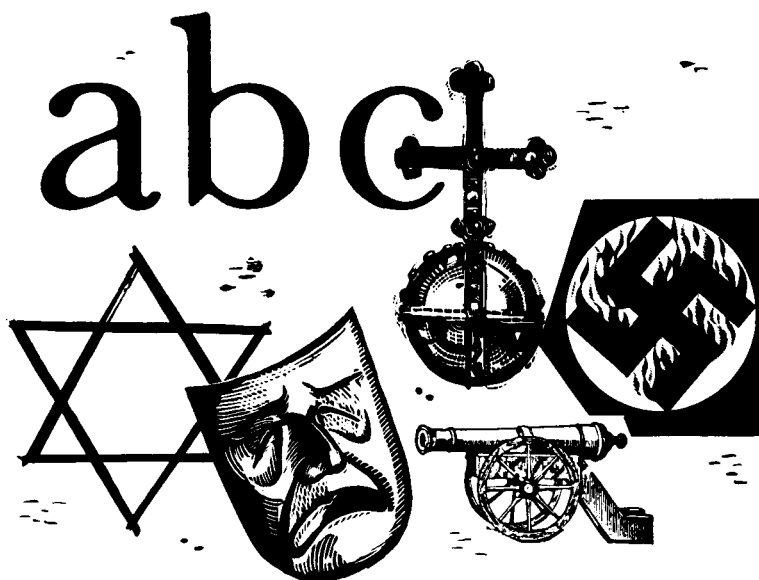
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