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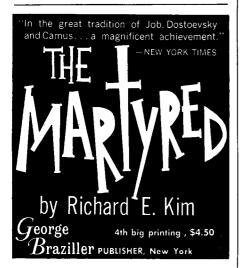
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Top of My Head



A Rose by Any Other Name . . .

LMOST every day there have been hot news flashes from the TV networks about changing the titles of some of the new shows they're preparing for us come next September. Unlike Shakespeare's rose, a television program by any other name could still smell. Nonetheless, coming up with a catchy title is considered most important to entice and lure an audience into watching the show. Besides, it gives people who had nothing at all to do with conceiving the show a feeling of creativity.

Thus a new series that had been written under the title of The Lawmaker has been renamed Slattery's People. A lot of good thinking probably went into that change. The Lawmaker might have been confused with another series titled Lawman, or another titled The Lawless or even with Lawrence Welk. Another new program is now titled Yours Truly Danny Taylor, which was formerly The Reporter, which might have been confused with CBS Reports or President's Report to the Nation. And you know what kind of ratings shows like those get.

A new comedy series coming up stars William Bendix and Martha Raye and concerns a butler and a maid who inherit a palatial home and maintain it on a rental basis "where anything funny can happen and usually does." This series has beer titled Bill and Martha. You can look for a reversal of that title if I know Martha, and I do. Another comedy program, which had been called *The John McIver Show*, has been retitled Many Happy Returns because it concerns the head of a complaint section in a department store "where anything funny can happen and usually does." Are you enticed and Jured?

A catchy title may not seem much to you. As for me, this past season I was enticed and lured into watching the first showing of a series called Harry's Girls. But when the announcer shouted over the opening title, "Harry's Girls IS brought to you . . ." my set was off in a trice. I have the same querulous feeling about the title Dr. Kildare, a most unfortunate name for a man you look to to get you up and out of the hospital and among the living. Just as, in these days of highly specialized medics, you would want someone a little better than Thackeray's just Dr. Goodenough. No, they don't turn out mass media doctors like they used to. Jean Hersholt-there was a doctor! His title was his shingle-Dr. Christian. Hippocrates and God as interns. And all you ever had to do for him was to open your mouth and say "Ahhh," not why you hated your mother.

I first came up against this preoccupation with title changes some years ago at CBS. This was back in the days when radio had class, courage, and compassion for its listeners, reflecting the spirit and guiding genius of CBS, William S. Paley. I came to the programing department with an idea for a radio series to be titled CBS Was There, in which an anachronistic microphone was placed at historical events and history was broadcast by the news staff as it would have been done had radio been around. After some weeks spent writing, casting, and directing in collaboration with this magazine's Robert Lewis Shayon, one of the few able triple-threat men in the business, the first script was finally recorded as a sample show and was presented to the men in charge of programing.

There was a long, silent delay for the green light we had expected for the first broadcast. We finally learned that some executives in charge of changing titles were undecided whether to call it CBS Was There or CBS Is There. After another long delay "Was" finally won. After two years on radio the show went to television. The title: You Are

I'll hate myself in the morning for saying this, but I like to think the content of a program can make a title palatable, rather than vice versa. For instance I would like the Dick Van Dyke Show even if it were titled Beverly Hillbillies. But not vice versa.

The other late night I was watching an old movie. The opening title read "Starring Va Gardn." I was enjoying the beautiful Va Gardn immensely, and it was only much later in the movie that I learned my small screen had not been able to accommodate the movie's entire opening title. Some of the title had crept into the woodwork and it should have read Ava Gardner.

-GOODMAN ACE.





































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GOVERNMENT'S HIDDEN DIMENSION

A United States Senator sees in federalism a neglected

source of national strength and stability

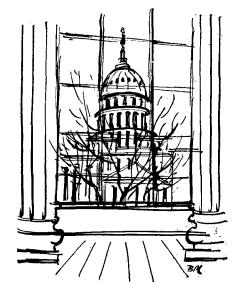
T IS one revealing commentary on the image of the United States that our friends abroad are so quick to congratulate us on the stability of our institutions in time of crisis and so ready to condemn us for our deliberate speed in dealing with critical issues both foreign and domestic. Few really understand that the basis of our stability is the cause of our deliberation.

An assassin can rob the nation of a beloved leader. But the constitutional structure of government remains inviolate, held together by procedural threads stoutly woven into the fabric of our system and tested by time and experience. The madman's bullet may damage the national psyche. Even soto quote Lyndon B. Johnson's quiet estimate of his own first hundred days—"the peoples' part was well done."

Let foreign princes marvel at how swiftly a new President may apply his own spurs to an ornery national legislature. Americans have accepted our scheme of succession without qualm or question since John Tyler first subjected "the wisdom and sufficiency of our institutions to a new test" by deliberately establishing that the Vice President becomes President in fact and not merely an acting caretaker on the death of an incumbent. So once more "the great federal establishment has moved on with the business of state," as the Washington *Post* said recently, "steadying in the wake of calamity to all the demands that crisis has made upon it."

But stability and effective constitutional government are not all that is expected of the United States. Throughout the world as well as at home querulous voices are raised whenever our government fails to act decisively on a point of international conflict, or when domestic pressures "are permitted" to condition foreign policy, or when the nation "fails" to scrub away the tarnish of civil wrongs from its own image.

Our critics overlook the fact that America's governmental institutions are stable because they are pluralistic, because they are democratic, because they are counterbalanced and constitutionally inhibited. For the same reasons, they are sometimes slow-at least by comparison with authoritarian regimes. If we have only begun to resolve the promise of civil rights for all and the problems of the aged, of urban expansion, of education, of poverty, of unemployment and all the rest-if the product of our federalism is still imperfect—it is not for lack of recognition. The problem of meeting common needs today is



more procedural than philosophic. The issues are when and how, not whether.

There are, of course, many elements of stability in the American constitutional system: the checks and balances based upon a separation of powers among the legislature, executive, and judiciary; the bicameral legislature; the practice of judicial review by the Supreme Court; congressional control of appropriations; constitutional limitations upon the powers of the central government; and even custom and tradition.

But far and away the most powerful and pervasive force for stability and continuity in our system of government, beyond the Constitution itself, is the division of governmental powers and jurisdictions between the national government and the states. Under the U.S. Constitution, the states are indestructible organs of local government that exist and function in their own spheres. Without this kind of democratic decentralization the future of our democratic institutions, subjected to increasing pressure from centralizing forces within and totalitarian forces without, might well be placed in jeopardy.

Despite the critical importance of our multi-sovereign federal system, it is precisely this aspect that is so poorly understood. For non-Americans, it is easily the most incomprehensible facet of the American constitutional system.

Our Constitution is honored throughout the world as a model charter of representative government and democratic freedoms, but its role as a vehicle for apportioning sovereignty between the federal government and a state is but dimly perceived. It strikes the "aver-