

AS I SEE IT

Pat Costa

I knew I liked Sen. Lowell Weicker of the Senate Select Committee from having watched him earlier in the Watergate proceedings but during a recent interrogation when he stumbled awkwardly trying to pronounce specificity my ardor began to grow.

"Specificity" pronounced I think spess -i-fiss-ity is not to be found in my 2000 page unabridged Random House Dictionary or perhaps it is and I just can't find it.

It happens to be one of the favorite words of the many lawyers who have testified before Sen. Sam Ervin and Co. John Dean used it smoothly. So too did Gerald Alch when he was refuting James McCord's testimony. Others have been less successful.

It means, I would assume, the state of being specific as in "I can't recall the conversation with any specificity."

An easy way to say the same thing would be: "I can't remember the conversation in any exact detail."

An easy way to say another phrase the lawyers often use is: "He telephoned me." But, that obviously is too easy and so we at home hear that the person accustomed to having things made telephonic contact.

Instead of the word "following" we hear "pursuant to" as in "Pursuant to my leaving the Committee to Re-elect the President" I became chief dog walker at the White House.

The simple word "no" may suffice for most of us but our Watergate witnesses think "negative response" has a better ring.

"At this point in time" may seem like a mouthful if you can substitute "then" without losing any of your meaning but as those of us who have followed the Sam Ervin variety show from the start know simplicity is not the name of this word game.

The thinking seems to be that if one word does the job efficiently then six words must be that many times more efficient, particularly if one or more is somewhat obscure.

Of course it is not only the witnesses guilty of this kind of overkill. Sen Howard Baker of dimple and grin fame has been known to throw in an occasional "arrogate" (claim presumptuously) and "abrogate" (cancel).

Someone I think should tell him you don't get to be president by using words like that in front of us common folk. We are accustomed to having things made perfectly clear.

McCall's Starts Parents' Film Guide

New York [CPF] — McCall's Magazine has begun what it calls a "Movie Guide for Puzzled Parents," which includes brief descriptions of film content that parents may or may not wish to expose their children to.

The guide in McCall's comes about a year after a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of New York, Father Kenneth Jadoff, began a similar service for parents called "Movie Facts for Parents."

In announcing its regular monthly guide, to be compiled by Lynn Minton, author of "Growing Into Adolescence," McCall's said the listings are designed "to help you answer the question: 'But is it really all right for the kids?'"

The McCall's guide, resulting from increased parental dissatisfaction with simple letter ratings offered by the Motion Picture Association of America or the Catholic film office, carries an introduction in its July issue which states flatly, "Ratings are unreliable."

Explaining, the introduction went on, "A recent PG movie, The Catch-22, had particularly unpleasant sadistic sexual subplot, to say nothing of numerous shotgun killings, but escaped an R rating, presumably because no one was stark naked."

"On the other hand, some R-rated movies would not be considered off bounds by certain parents who do not consider either nudity or sex in certain contexts objectionable."

The women's magazine admitted that "at a time when standards are changing, it's difficult to agree upon guidelines. Parents, nevertheless, ought to have some way of knowing what is in a film before agreeing to let a child see it."

"Because family values differ, and children mature at differing rates, we will tell you what is in

INDIANS POOREST

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — By almost every social and economic test, Indians are worse off than other Americans, including other minorities, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

At Home With the Movies

THE ALAMO [Part II]
Friday, August 3 [NBC]
Conclusion of 1960 epic adventure starring John Wayne about the battle of the Alamo. (Part I was shown on Tuesday, July 31.) A-I

TOPKAPI [1964]
Saturday, August 4 [NBC]
This adaptation of Eric Ambler's comic thriller about a poor, bungling con-man who becomes involved in the fantastic plot to steal a famed jeweled dagger from the Istanbul Museum is directed by Jules Dassin (Riffi) with gusto. Starring Melina Mercouri, Peter Ustinov, Maximilian Schell, and Robert Morley. A-III

THE LONG DUEL [1967]
Sunday, August 5 [ABC]
This British-vs.-East Indian tale encases another competent Trevor Howard portrayal. Howard, a good guy at heart but a non-conformist, wants to treat even an outlaw native chief (Yul Brynner) with British man-to-man justice. Justice prevails. Directed by Ken Annakin. A-II

MAROC 7 [1967]
Monday, August 6 [ABC]
Gene Barry adds some much needed class to this otherwise low grade flick about international jewel thievery. The whiff of James Bond is always in the air as secret agent Barry assumes the identity of a jewel thief in order to trap such big game as Cyd Charisse, who in turn is hot after a huge Moroccan gem, which in turn is coveted by model Elsa Martinelli, etc. etc. There are lots of splashy places to

see, lots of girls in wispy outfits, and a heavy dollop of violence and amorality. A matter of (poor) taste. B

I WANT TO LIVE [1959]
Tuesday, August 7 [NBC]
Heavy melodrama depicts the last desperate hours in a woman's

life as she waits to be executed on death row in prison. Susan Hayward as the perhaps wrongly convicted murderess gives a strong performance in a film which, in pushing an anti-capital-punishment message, also indicts the newspaper sensationalists, and a cold and inefficient system of justice. A-III

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the movie so you can judge for yourself whether or not it would be right for your child."

Sample information offered in McCall's first installment of its Movie Guide for Puzzled Parents includes:

High Plains Drifter — "One of those 'A Stranger Comes to Town' Westerns, but here the townspeople exist solely as setups for the pillage which follows: In the film's interminable 105 minutes, there are 19 killings and 1 1/2 rapes — a lot of activity for a town with about six houses in it."

Scarecrow — "Touching and genuine story of a loyal friendship between two drifters who make their way on the roads, bars and prisons of America. The portrayal of isolated people really caring for one another is immensely valuable for mature 13-

or 14-year-olds and up, but the film is not for younger children. Language is often rough. There is one brutal scene in which a homosexual attempts to seduce one of the friends and, failing, beats him up badly."

Theatre of Blood — "A Shakespearean actor driven mad when he doesn't get the Critics' Award sets out to away with every one of the critics. What can you say about a beheading, a knife murder (28 lacerations), an electrocution, a heart cut out and drowning — all played for laughs?"

A Warm December — "About a widowed ghetto doctor who falls in love with the beautiful daughter of an African ambassador who is dying of sickle-cell anemia. A few long kisses is it for the sex, and the romantic, uncorny story should appeal to young girls."

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