

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

I have never been able to figure out who it is that has time to watch the morning extravaganza that is "The Today Show" and its most recent imitator, ABC's "America". A trick worker who arrives home about 7 a.m. maybe the mother of school age children—never.

I suppose "never" is a bit of an exaggeration. At the height of the Watergate hearings it was easy enough at 8:30 a.m. to get the kids out the door and sit down with a cup of coffee to watch Senator Sam or Howard Baker or Herman Talmadge expound on the significance of the previous day's testimony. NBC was good about that, saving the plum interviews for the last half hour.

And then, too, perhaps the difficulty in sitting in front of a TV set between 7 and 9 a.m. might be mostly reluctance. Frankly I'm not ready for the arts at the hour—neither a performance nor a discussion of, thank you. And only that news which directly concerns me, e.g. a blizzard threatens to close all area schools.

Obviously I'm in the minority. Somebody is watching. We know that from the piles of money NBC was raking in from the sponsors, from the CBS attempt to cash in

At Home With the Movies

SAM WHISKEY [1969] Monday, Jan. 20

Angie Dickinson tries to protect the family name by seducing Burt Reynolds into retrieving some gold bars stolen by her dead husband and returning them to the U.S. Mint in Denver before the government discovers the loss.

The young lady's sense of morality displays a

Church And Politics



Sister Frances

"The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ."

— Church in the Modern World

This quote from the Vatican II documents underscores the importance of Christian involvement in the world. It reminds us that an intense care and concern about the quality of life today is the mark of a true Christian. Jesus came in the flesh to walk and talk with the people of his time about their problems and to show them God's concern for their earthly life. He communicated this concern in a concrete way through his life of healing and consolation.

This healing and consolation must continue in our times, too, since our fellow men suffer a variety of ills just as did the people of New Testament times. Our problems, however, are a bit more complex and perplexing. Government, for instance, which is supposed to promote the

on the time period and ABC's blatant copy.

Yes, I know that ABC promoted the new program as concentrating more on entertainment than news. But on the second day it was screened there were comments by former New York Mayor John Lindsay (a regular) on committee investigation of domestic spying by the CIA, an interview with Mayor Kevin White on the racially troubled schools in Boston, another interview with United Auto Workers president Leonard Woodcock, plus the usual news on the half hour.

The best feature of the morning was a segment done by Ralph Story on the chances of finding gold today in the same area where the great California gold rush began. The scenery was lovely, narration to the point, the gaping holes of abandoned mines graphic.

All of which fails to mention the three main characters of this contemporary happening: Peter Jennings who does the news and Bill Beutel as co-anchorman are wasted. Stephanie Edwards is getting the exposure. And why not? She's chic and lovely and very fresh looking. Better than all that she's competent and feminine at the same time—an unbeatable combination. I watched her recover beautifully in an interview when Dr. Carl Menninger became a little testy in the closing moments of the first show.

Both she and Beutel lost points at program's end when they joined in relating a story "from Rochester, N.Y." I hope all their news isn't that old. It was the item printed some four to six weeks ago in local papers about the police officer making a speeding school teacher write 100 times "I will not run a red light."

lightheadedness that is typical of the film as a whole, and Ossie Davis and Clint Walker, as Reynolds' supporters, in the improbable scheme, do nothing to right the balance.

Too farfetched for even comedy, this undistinguished Western directed by Arnold Lavin limps along with nothing at all to recommend it.

common good, oftentimes seems to compound people's sufferings rather than alleviating them. As the role of government in everyone's life grows we see many people becoming more and more pessimistic about political involvement. "Politics" is now seen as "dirty" and "government" becomes a kind of enemy which is feared by many. People don't want to be involved with either!

Watergate, especially, is the symbol of this growing disenchantment. The result is that more and more people withdraw from politics and let issues slide by them enabling corruption to grow even more. The job of choosing candidates and getting them elected falls into the hands of a few—oftentimes an irresponsible few—who are not concerned about the common good. If this downward spiral is to stop, people must begin to get involved again and, as a minimum, stay informed about candidates and issues.

The beginning of a new year is an excellent time for us to re-evaluate our attitude toward politics. Have we grown too cynical about politics? Have we used this cynicism as an excuse for not trying to do our part? Do we make an honest effort to keep up with the issues? Good government and honest politics are everybody's business, but the Christian, especially, ought to feel responsibility for this.

Jesus was involved in the world of his times even to the point of death. Should not we, his followers, also bring our values to the political process? It's one way in which we share in the griefs and anxieties of the men of this age.

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