Ewald in Disagreement With Indiana Telephone Caller on 'Playhouse 90'

By WILLIAM EWALD

New York —(UPI)— Immediately after CBS-TV's Playhouse 90 Thursday night, a complete stranger (come to think of it, have you ever run stranger?) called me up long distance: "Did you see that Playhouse 90?" he said. "One of the greatest things I've ever seen." "Who are you?" I said.

William Ewald

"You don't know me," he said, "But I read you every day. I just wanted to say it was one of the greatest things I've ever seen."

"Where are you?" I said.

"Indiana," he said, "absolutely one of the greatest."

"Where in Indiana?" I said.

"Columbus, Indiana," he said. "It was so real. Really great. You know, I've never done anything like this, but I had to tell you."

Kind of Flattering

Well, to tell you the truth I never did anything like it either and in a way, it was kind of flattering. It's kind of nice to know there's one person out there reading you —that is, aside from numerous and anonymous old ladies who write indignant letters in grume on the back of slightly used Uneeda biscuits.

Anyway to get on with it, Loring Mandel's "The Raider," the Playhouse 90 entry, was an engrossing drama about a corporation proxy fight, acted with some fire and directed with skill. But I'm afraid I'll have to disagree a bit with my friend in Indiana because its ending was a cheat which spoiled it a good deal.

"The Raider" posed an absorbing problem, but it never came to grips with that problem: Whether loyalty to an organization should override every other loyalty, be it loyalty to friends or to a personal code.

It is a problem increasingly cropping up in our post-war fiction—"The Caine Mutiny" and "From Here To Eternity," for example, both fell, despairingly enough, on the side of organization. And in an even more miner key, the problem is even turning up increasingly in ladies magazine fiction.

Gnawed on Problem

What "The Raider" did Thursday night was to gnaw on the problem, but leave the swallowing of the problem to its audience. What it lacked, as a result, was dramatic resolution, genuine climax, a real wholeness. It is perhaps significant that it was produced by Herbert Brodkin, who several seasons back produced another play, "Thunder in Washington," that also caused some controversy by its shy-dodger ending.

The actual mechanics of the play, as I said, were quite good with Paul Douglas, Frank Lovejoy, Donald Crisp and Rod Taylor the principal players. Okay, Indiana – still friends?

LIKES DRINK

Knoxville, Tenn.—(UPI)—Convicted of drunken driving, Mark A. Kollock told Judge H. P. Pollard he was going to sell his car because "it always gets me into trouble." "Why not quit drinking instead," the judge asked. "I don't guess I could do that," Kollock replied.

EVIDENCE MISSING

Kenosha, Wis. —(UPI)— Speeding charges against 25 motorists were dismissed Thursday because of the absence of one vital piece of evidence. Judge Urban J. Zievers threw out the charges after highway police failed to produce the incriminating radargraph used to trap the defendants.

Corn was a fertility symbol to Pueblo and Navajo Indians.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Rockland, Mass.–The sister of Capt. Samuel B. Nikerson, skipper of the tug that rescued eight survivors of a plane crash in New York City's East river, telling of a nervous collapse he suffered five days after the crash:

"He kept worrying afterward that he might have saved more had there been more time and more rescue boats."

London–British Dr. G. A. Rose, reporting an increase of angina cases marked by sharp pains in the region of the heart while watching exciting shows on television:

"Those people who aspire to mental detachment, even at the height of the chase in a Western, may care to ponder that some hundreds of their less fortunate fellows are at that very moment clutching their chests with one hand while feeling for their medicine with the other."

Newton, Mass.–Earl Attlee, former British prime minister, warning that the world has a choice of world government or world chaos:

"We are living in the most dangerous period of the world's history. We must surrender to world authority."

New York–Luben Vichey, whose Les Ballets Africans troups has bowed to an order to cover bare bosoms or close, calling the order incomprehensible:

"At no time do you get as much nudity on the stage as you do in a 52nd st. strip joint."

Tacoma–Former Teamster Union President Dave Beck, on how he felt after bein convicted of income tax evasion:

"I feel fine. I couldn't feel better. If I felt any better I couldn't stand it."

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