

Some of his plays have had long money-making runs on Broadway. But Mr. Anderson is more than a successful author of popular plays. He is a man of ideas and ideals.² He wrote *The Golden Six* to show the parallel between conditions in ancient Rome that helped to cause her downfall and those we face today. It is a skillful, almost Shakespearian, "historical whodunit." It has plot and drama. The hero, Claudius, is a believable, true-to-life, likeable young fellow. The play has philosophy and introspection. It has a message, as true today as in the days of ancient Rome. "The tradition is so strong for freedom," Mr. Anderson has said, "that the people would not give it up unless they were doped for a long time. But a steady unearned income is the strongest dope there is."

As *The Golden Six* would indicate, the "bread and circuses" of Rome have counterparts today. Price supports, tariff protection, old age, unemployment, and veteran benefits, special bargaining privileges, tax exemptions, artificially low interest rates of an "easy money" policy, lush govern-

ment contracts, and the like — these are the handouts by which politicians mold citizens of the twentieth century into pliant and dependent voters. Public vacation parks and resorts, municipal swimming pools, government subsidized theaters — these are our "circuses" today.

The Lesson Is Lost

Few persons care to ask from whence the funds come or to what these programs lead. Most people avoid such unpleasant topics and seek escape in light and gay amusement. Musical comedies draw audiences of thousands. A play that praises the modern "New Deal" hero runs on for months on New York's "Great White Way." Yet a play with a lesson from history is ignored.

Last year when *The Golden Six* was being staged, support was lacking for a Broadway showing. Mr. Anderson's freedom message opened in October, in a small theater many blocks from New York's "Great White Way," with a cast of comparatively unknown actors. It ran for the short span of 17 performances; and then it folded, mute evidence to the current thinking of a people whose tradition of freedom, like that of the early Romans, has been undermined by government handouts.

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MEMO ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

No. 4 in a series

"...(parcel post) operation should be made to charge rates that pay their full costs..."

The Transportation Association of America is a non-profit research and educational organization made up of users, investors and carriers representing all modes of transportation. Two-thirds of its voting memberships are held by shippers. Its efforts are devoted to the development and implementation of sound national policies that will assure the nation of a strong transportation system under private ownership and operation.

During 1958 the TAA took a strong stand against shipper proposals to increase the size and weight of parcel post moving between first class post offices. The TAA also emphasized to a Senate subcommittee, "We feel strongly that any such operation (parcel post) should be made to charge rates that pay their full costs, including direct and indirect costs."

What does TAA mean by direct and indirect costs? Simply, that in addition to costs charged to

the Post Office Department, parcel post is also government subsidized with part of its cost hidden in the budgets of other agencies and not charged against the Post Office Department.

It is impossible for private transportation carriers to compete against such unfair below-cost government competition!

The TAA urged that Congress uphold the following policies:

1. That Government should not engage in any for-hire transport services where adequate, privately owned facilities are or can be made readily available.
2. Parcel post rates shall be adequate to cover all costs of the service and the annual parcel post cost ascertainment reports of the Post Office Department shall include all costs properly attributable to parcel post service.

Only when such policies are upheld will the American public be justly served under the basic tenets of our free enterprise system.

For a free copy of the informative booklet, "The Truth About Parcel Post," address the Public Relations Division,

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A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE



²See *The Guaranteed Life* (from the introduction to his *Knickerbocker Holiday*). Single copies available upon request from the Foundation for Economic Education, Inc., Irvington-on-Hudson, N. Y.