

EDITOR'S NOTE

Maxwell Anderson has earned considerable acclaim as a playwright over the past quarter of a century. Among his numerous plays that have appeared on Broadway are *What Price Glory*, *Winterset* and *Key Largo*. His current New York hit is *Lost in The Stars*.

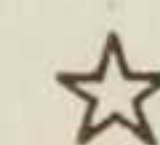
Mr. Anderson first wrote this article as a preface to his *Knickerbocker Holiday* in 1938. But it seems more timely now than when it first appeared. It is here reproduced with revisions by the author.

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THE GUARANTEED LIFE



A GOVERNMENT is a group of men organized to sell protection to the inhabitants of a limited area at monopolistic prices." So said Peter Stuyvesant in *Knickerbocker Holiday*, and so I believe now. In other words there's no such thing as a "good" government; one and all they partake of the nature of rackets. But government is better than anarchy, and was invented as an insurance against anarchy. And some kinds of government are far better than others. Specifically, our American experiment has worked so well that we can point to it as one of the most successful in the history of the world, if not the most successful.

IN THE BEGINNING

IN *Knickerbocker Holiday* I tried to remind the audience of the attitude toward government which was prevalent in this country at the time of the revolution of 1776 and throughout the early years of the republic. At that time it was generally believed, as I believe now, that the gravest and most constant danger to a