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## Suppressed Reminder

To the Editor:

It is more than regrettable that C.B.S. decided against showing veteran David Rabe's "Sticks and Bones" "at this time" to avoid possible discord during the homecoming of the P.O.W.'s.

The play about a blinded, embittered and ambivalent veteran would have helped to put things into perspective by reminding all of us of those who were killed in action or badly maimed, doomed to lives in wheelchairs or hospital beds, drug addiction, rejection by their families, homelessness, confusion, unemployment or crime.

There was no red carpet when they were brought home, no embrace by some high-ranking officer; there were no gifts of flowers, cars, money, no brass bands. Many were forgotten as soon as they arrived, being nothing but painful, guilt-inducing reminders of a cruel and senseless war.

They did not add to the glory of the President, who kept in the spotlight by being praised by the P.O.W.'s in their practically identical homecoming speeches in which they frequently used Mr. Nixon's favorite term, "peace with honor." (Thackeray coined the phrase "the Devil's Code of Honor." How apt in this context.)

I wholeheartedly share the nation's happiness about the safe return of the P.O.W's, and I don't begrudge them anything they have been given, but I doubt that it would have hurt or harmed them or the rest of us to see "Sticks and Bones." It would have reminded them of how fortunate most of them have been in comparison to many thousands of their comrades, and it would have given those of us who stayed at home a valuable lesson in understanding and compassion.

That C.B.S., often so upright and courageous, bowed to so-called "public demand" is a frightening omen.

GERTRUD SANDER ROST  
Montclair, N. J., March 12, 1973