

Over the Coffee®

**Workings of
An Idle Mind**

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STRANGE things were hap-
pening in Iowa last week.

Two state politicians courageously flew in the face of the infidel vote, Iowa City students in search of a more democratic society nearly lynched a CIA man, and Des Moines parents, who long have prided themselves on the quality of Des Moines schools, learned that their children scored very low on statewide tests designed to measure basic academic skills.

But perhaps the most curious happening of all involved William Kendrick, chief clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives.

A state representative made a motion to raise Kendrick's pay from \$40 to \$60 a day while the Legislature is in session, at which point Kendrick said:

"I sincerely appreciate the motion . . . and I may be worth \$60; but I don't want it."

So the motion was withdrawn.

Now that's a pretty low trick for Kendrick to pull on the rest of us. Think of how it makes us look.

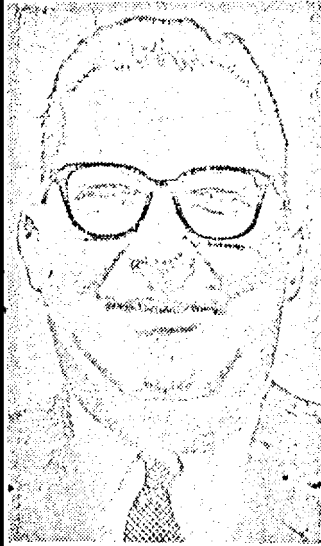
A dedicated worker will ask his boss for a raise and his boss will say, "What do you mean you want a raise? Why can't you be like that fellow Kendrick over in the Statehouse? They have to threaten him with dismissal before he'll take a raise."

And the worker says, "But I deserve a raise."

And the employer says, "Sure you do; so does Kendrick. That doesn't make any difference to him. He's a gem. If all employees were like him here wouldn't be any need for the National Association of Manufacturers."

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Kendrick has now become the adult version of that kid in school who always got good



William Kendrick
"He's a Gem"

grades and never got dirty, the one your mother was always telling you about.

I don't care if he is a great clerk of the House; they should cut his pay.

Des Moines has turned into a Michael Caine film festival. No less than three movies starring Caine are in town: "Alfie," "Gambit" and "Funeral In Berlin." What's more, they're all pretty good films.

THE IRONIC thing about the Statehouse controversy over the religious question on employment application blanks is that this sort of thing is so uncharacteristic of Iowa politics.

Our state government, lacking as it does a civil service system, is famous for hiring practices that do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, national origin or ability.

A FRIEND writes to remind me of a classic quotation from Shakespeare that I inadvertently neglected in my list last week.

"... the sounds of music . . ."; The Merchant of Venice, Act. V, Scene 1.

READING carefully the explanations of Des Moines school officials concerning the low test scores of Des Moines students, one becomes convinced that we do not, as was first feared, have a crummy school system.

We have dumb kids.

THE NATIONAL Society of Film Critics—made up of the leading critics of the nation—has chosen "Blow-Up," the first English-language film of Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni, as the best film of 1966. It has not yet played Des Moines but one can hope. Michael Caine was chosen best actor for "Alfie," and Sylvie was named best actress for "The Shameless Old Lady," which had a brief, unsuccessful run at the Varsity here a few months ago.

—Donald Kauf

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