

# Better Bridge

By ROBERT D.  
ROSENBLUM  
Copley News Service

H. T. Webster provided humor to a generation with his syndicated cartoons. Although best known for his creation of Casper Milquetoast, "The Timid Soul," he is particularly remembered in the bridge world. Webster took great pleasure in exposing the foibles of bridge players at a time when Ely Culbertson had made the game front page news.

Webster's merciless pen flayed the hapless, the poor creature who perpetrated such atrocities as removing partner's business double or trumping his ace. And they were laughed at. In the early days of contract bridge such actions were regarded as the height of ineptitude and a proof of stupidity.

Charles H. Goren first achieved international renown well into the Webster era. Goren, a master teacher, created a whole new reading public for Webster's humor. In fact, Goren is responsible, more than any other, for bridge's popularity today.

Then along came the diagrammed hand giving Goren an opportunity to flaunt a cardinal rule. He gave the bridge community something

to think about.

Goren held the East hand. West's double was primarily for takeout. It was a poor choice opposite a passing partner, but these were earlier days and bidding was erratic. In our enlightened time a double would show perhaps 0-3-6-4 distribution with high cards in all three suits.

Goren's pass of the double was also speculative, and as it turned out, the correct choice since four diamonds goes down one trick.

When West led the king and ace of diamonds Goren realized that three heart tricks probably would be needed to defeat the hand, so he trumped partner's ace and found the only killing return, the jack of hearts. Now the defense could not be kept from winning five tricks.

The switch was imperative and it had to come from East. Had West held the ace of spades (unlikely) or the king of clubs, rather than the ace of hearts, there was no way to beat the hand. Indeed, West held little enough.

Goren's ruff and heart shift was in no way risky. Had West begun with four hearts and six diamonds he would switch back to diamonds after winning the ace of hearts. East would ruff again and cash the king of hearts for the setting trick.

North  
S 10 9 2  
H 10 7 3  
D 9 5 4  
C A Q 10 9

	West		East
S	6		S 8 4 3
H	A 5 2		H K J 9 4
D	A K 10 8 6 3 2		D 7
C	8 4		C 7 6 5 3 2

South  
S A K Q J 7 5  
H Q 8 6  
D Q J  
C K J

Dealer: South. East-West were vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 S
2 D	2 S	Pass	3 S
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the diamond king.

# Better Bridge