Campaign fodder used to manufacture TV drama

After viewing the Reagan-Anderson Debate and watching the evening news avidly. I have realized that television has altered the nature of politics in American society. Political figures now spend less time on substantive issues and more on symbolic Issues, interpreting what they think and do in terms of impact on mass audiences. Newsmen look for "the story" in the mass of events that they confront each

Newsmen look for "the story" in the mass of events that they confront each day. For example, a remark or phrase by a candidate that can be construed as harsh, intemperate or abusive, such as Governor Reagan's reference to President Carter and the KRK, or President Carter's remark about peace-and-war



and Governor Reagan, become media events. Television, news reports and maga-zine profiles have a voracious appetite

for "stories" with major plots and sub-plots of everyday campaign events.

THERE ARE dangers in imposing this dramatic form on political dialogue. If a campaign becomes a staguon which the candidate struis and declaims his part, it results in tales full of invective and furry, signifying little. How many Americans can define, at his time, the differences between the three candidates for President in terms of: economic policies; defense policies; taxation; urban development; energy programs, to name some of the more crucial concerns we face.

When political candidates act out a drama in politics, they emphasize form over substance, appearance over con-victions, presentation over policy. Each candidate seeks to offer the kind of drama American people prefer and avoids addressing the harder questions of political and economic choices be-tween alternatives that carry costs and

ONE SOMETIMES feels that candi ONE SOMETIMES feels that candidates go through motions in public, and especially before the television camera, that are quite distant from their inner beliefs and authentic views.

Of course, every effective leader must inspire his people and offer them a vision that unites them in pursuit of common ideals, and thus appeal to their emotions as well as their intellect.

But when we compel the aspirants for high public office to perform 'on stage' we should not be surprised if their discourse deals less with fact and reason and more with 'scripts," stage directions, and theatrical effects.

Temple Emanu-El installs new rabbi

Members of Temple Emanu-El cele-brate the installation of Lane B. Steinger as "Rabbi of the Temple" dur-ing festivities Oct. 10. At this time, Rabbi Milton Rosenbaum will become

ing restivities Oct. In At this time Rabbi Milton Resenbaum will become Senbor Rabbi. Steinger is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and Hebrew Union College. He has served as student rabbi at Congregation Emanu-El of Weich, W.V.a. and Temple Chai in Buffalo Grove, Ill. Before coming to Templa Chai in 1976, he Elmanu-El as associate rabbi at Temple Emanu-El as associate rabbi in 1976, he Elmanu-El as associate rabbi at Temple Emanu-El as associate rabbi. All the Company of the Company of



RABBI LANE STEINGER

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ST. JOHN AMERICAN LUTHERAN 23225 Gill Road, Farmington

Charles Fox — Pastor Mark Radioff — Pastor WORSHIP SERVCE 830 & 11 AV

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545 9777
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Chorch - School: 10 00 am
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Menster John W. Bray

A stress seminar, sponsored by the Church and Society Committee of St. Paul United Presbyterian Church, will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, in the church, 27475 Five Mile (16:ea 4 422-1410.

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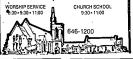
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