

"City that breathes of things too large for books,
that is too beautiful for poets, too terrible for
drama, too true for testimony....."(1)

Christopher Merley rightfully tagged New York City as the thyroid gland of the nation because it rises as the metropolis of the world and serves as a model for its behavior. It is the cradle for fashions, fads, and foreign affairs and sets the pace for both race riots and high society entertainment. It is the city of delight and despair, the city of dreadful height and delirium, encompassing the canyons of steel, the fantasy of Chinatown, the thrills of Yankee Stadium, and the protests from Washington Square.

The city never sleeps. The lighted windows of heaven-assailing spires dominate the Manhattan skyline. In the magic hours of the passing night, Broadway is transformed into a flashing, moving symphony of marquees, hung for miles with raging, electric fire. The United Nations Building and the Statue of Liberty tower as citadels of peace and freedom.

New York City's view for the future is one of great potential because its people, architecture, tourist attractions, international enterprises, and competent leaders can all blend into a winning combination that is able to surpass in spirit the height of its tallest skyscraper.

A variety of interests for the historian, the athlete, the intellectual, the rebel, or the playboy is held by New York. One can be pacified in the splendor of Central Park, or crazed by the fury of Wall Street. Mark Twain once said, "In Boston they ask, How much does he know? In New York, How much is he worth? In Philadelphia, Who were his parents?"(2) Life in the big town is a challenge. It is an amalgamation of the crowded masses of Chicago, the lure of Paris, and the glory of Rome. People are found everywhere-- speeding down, shopping for, perspiring over, rushing to, worried about, or laughing at.

1 Felix Riesenbergs East Side, West Side 1919-1929

2 What Paul Blouet Thinks of Us

Each one of New York's eight million residents is an individual with a purpose, who can strive to attain his personal goals in his immediate surroundings. But they will tend to lose their concept of individuality if they refuse to cease rushing for one split second to reflect on the purposes of their lives and how they may contribute to the improvement of their society. If the citizens of New York City, as a whole, are interested in promoting the common good, keeping themselves well informed on local issues, holding reverence and respect for laws and electing responsible leaders, they can insure for themselves peace and prosperity. Cooperation with "the City's Finest" must become a reality rather than a slogan if the view for the future is aimed at improvement. The crimes on the subways, prejudice, and the indigence of the slums cannot be tolerated much longer because the future is the today of ~~tomorrow~~ yesterday. By and by is easily said, but New Yorkers will continue to earn the title of the Empire State. I think that New York City's view for the future is GREAT because any city that is able to transform the setting of West Side Story into the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts has an unlimited potential.