No full recall

Post-walk Interview: (Male) — HAL MEYER - DEPT OF COMMERCE

So T MDR

As far as noice is concerned, it was rather quiet there, there being no traffic jam and therefore no occasion for motorists to honk their horns. Infrequently there are periods during the day when I sometimes become rather irate at the traffic or change in lights or fact that the policeman on T duty at the intersection was not moving traffic according to the change in light signals. I believe earlier I mentioned the fact that the hurdy-gurdy was not S.P here today, so that sets a record. It can be quite pleasant to the occasional visitor, but as I said before it becomes monotonous after a few months or years.

This is obviously the higher class merchandising section of the city and therefore people are much more expensively dressed, P extravagantly dressed in furs, etc.

B has Shreve's which is probably the best jeweler around town and therefore attracts many Cadillacs, furs, etc., has their own P doorman which is infrequent along Boylston St.

There are a great many sectors because of the office buildings, etc., particularly B John Hancock. The proportion of P female employment is quite high because of the stores, insurance C building and the offices. In addition, there is a much higher proportion of women on the street because of the nature of the C specialty stores in this section.

The pedestrian traffic on T every street is much lighter, at least a fifth if not possibly a tenth of the traffic on Boylston St.

There is certainly a multitude of S1 signs on both streets. As I mentioned before, the buildings in this area are largely C converted buildings, especially on Newbury St. The presence of S1 signs merely adds more confusion to the already cut-up facades. In a good many cases the adjoining facades as C originally constructed were not at all similar, but once you take that as a basic element and add these other elaborations to it, it becomes quite decently unpleasant or at least not attractive, not necessarily repulsive.

The trees in the M.S Gardens were very pleasant and the repetition of M trees around B Bonwit Teller's was also nice. It is unfortunate that there aren't more provisions for this sort of thing elsewhere. There aren't any in C Copley Square. I've often wondered why some attempt could not be made to plant trees on that triangle in the

center of that square to help break up the mass of buildings and add an element of green that could be seen across the street rather than just a plain strip of grass which can only be appreciated when one is standing on it or within 20 ft. of it. I suppose the problem there is that the subways are below the square itself and therefore the water drains off quicker and therefore the trees would have to be artifically watered.

Street furniture is no worse here than SF anywhere else, possibly a little better, the usual things one finds fault with, possibly the shape of a trash disposal unit.

The quality of the buildings -- Between Boylston and Newbury St. the red brick C.O. P sidewalk certainly adds a note of C richness to the area, and it can't be economically duplicated today in terms of labor costs. There certainly is no reason why a red brick sidewalk isn't as attractive as a wide C concrete one as you find on both sides of that block between Boylston and Newbury St. The sidewalks are excessively P + S wide and exceedingly unattractive. The only other street furniture I can recall, ~~xparkxfromxthx~~ are the parking SF meters which are necessary but don't have much to do to improve the appearance of the street.

~~Ø~~ Do I say that this section is a part of an over-all whole? I think one's reaction to that question would be that my personal reaction would be that one has varied stimulii according to where your office is located, according to whether you're on the ground floor or on the street or, as I am, on the fifth floor of a building which overlooks the Public Gardens, Park St., Beacon St., the Court B House, Park B St. Church, and Tremont St. Unless you are up at this elevation you can't begin to appreciate the relationship of this section of this particular corner to the center of the city, the cultural, business, religious and fraternal organizations of the community, whereas if one were walking along the street or located below the level of the tree-tops, on the 3rd or 2nd floor, it's much more difficult to appreciate the relationship of this particular site to the city as a whole. At the street level you would be conscious of the trees in the Gardens but you would run short of the fact that there are so many trees. At ground level you are conscious that this is a section between Copley Sq. which is the next largest geographic C center up from the Public Gardens,

unless, as I've already said, I've inferred that the presence of a great many trees does block the line of sight and I've found that to be true in other public parks. In Lawrence, for example, the town common is quite heavily planted with trees. It's only approximately 3 or 4 blocks in total area, and one is xxxx not aware of the adjacent buildings and blocks and their uses while walking through the park. This is somewhat desirable, but on the other hand I think a vista through the park if there is anything of significance to be seen is quite often desirable.

The only relationship I have of this area to the city as a whole is that it is probably considered the most exclusive shopping center of the city. On one hand it is exclusive relative to Boston, however there seems to be very little similarity as to uses of the same street, Boylston St., for example, except in the Copley Sq. area which has attractive shops principally on the southern side of the street which is the shady side of the street. The other side is occupied by New England Mutual Bldg. which is an exception to this general statement, and then between Berkeley and Arlington streets a succession of much lower group of stores, I would say, commercial enterprises which do not necessarily need the best location nor are they willing to pay the most for their location as contrasted with the specialty shops. I think relative to other cities, the street itself cannot be considered outstanding, and I can't think of any I would consider to be the epitomy of exclusive shopping district. This shopping district is pretty much bounded by the corner of the Public Gardens. There do not seem to be consistently good stores along one edge of the Public Gardens, nor along Boston Common on Boylston St. I would say it begins at Shreve's and ends in the Copley Sq. area, with the competitive street and much less traffic volume on Newbury St. which continues on down beyond the Copley Sq. area approximately to Exeter St. It doesn't seem to be too pleasant alliance between the two streets other than they are considered part of Back Bay. The cross streets joining the two don't seem to be particularly fashionable in the type of wares with the exception of Berkeley St. which contains Bonwit's and Ritz . The other streets have small grocery stores and a motley collection of offices and that's about it. Of course, there is the disadvantage that a connecting link between the 2 streets is not too easy to acheive, principally because the heavy

pedestrian traffic on Boylston St. occurs on the south side and the same is true of the Newbury St. area for a good part of its length, at least until you get to approximately the Dartmouth St. area where you find a number of art shops etc. on both sides.