Two American plays premiere

(Continued from Page 4)

The second play was an excellent effort in all respects. 'Candavles, Commissioner' is a modernization of a bit of ancient history. Candavles was an emperor of Lydia, destined to be the last of his dynasty to govern the Ethiopian Empire. He desired a bride, so he sent a messenger, Gyges, to a neighboring kingdom to fetch the intended princess. Gyges fell in love with the princess, killed the emperor, qualified the resulting civil war, and set himself up as the founder of a new dynasty.

The historical story is modified so that Candavles is a High Commissioner of Economic Assistance to Lydia. His job is to perpetuate a civil war which has been consuming Lydia for 17 years. Candavles to Cassandra. He has a nucleus, Gyges, as a man servant. Gyges' existence centers around his ability to reassure the Commissioner that he is an inferior slave eager to serve his master, so long as the service, treats the master like a god, the master is the servant's slave. As the play progresses, Gyges is given use of the commissioner's wife, and the new pair of lovers unite to destroy Candavles.

'Sark drama' The play is performed with extraordinary starkness. There are only three characters, and a fourth that rather speaks than acts. Again the strongest performance was given by Larry Byggman, who, this time, was the lead, as Candavles. He puts life into the character of the slave-minded commissioner...