

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC Summer 2007 - Nashville, TN - Eddie Kantar (1)-)

Dir: South Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ K 3 ♥ A K Q J ♦ K Q J ♣ 10 8 6 3		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	4 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 2 ♥ 10 5 4 3 ♦ 10 9 7 6 5 ♣ A 4 2	Date 20-07-2007	EAST ♠ J 5 ♥ 9 8 7 6 ♦ A 8 4 2 ♣ K J 9	Opening Lead = ♦10			
	SOUTH ♠ A Q 10 9 8 7 6 4 ♥ 2 ♦ 3 ♣ Q 7 5					

Bidding commentary: An opening bid of a four of a major with a strong eight-card suit and fewer than 10 high-card points is more or less automatic. Preemptive openings in first and second seat are supposed to be weak bids and seldom, if ever, have two aces. In third seat, facing a passed partner, all bets are off. The preemptor may have almost anything, particularly at favorable vulnerability. A wise partner seldom messes with a third-seat preempt. Fourth-seat preempts, however, are a horse of a different color. These preempts show good hands, more often than not with opening-bid strength. After all, fourth hand can pass with garbage. In any case, North should have no qualms about passing 4♠ because at least two aces figure to be missing.

Defensive commentary: After winning the ♦A, it should be clear to East that a club shift is necessary. Besides, East can be near certain that West has the ♣A, assuming that South has a normal first-seat preempt. Actually, the idea is not whether to shift to a club. That's a given. The question is which club. We are back to our old friend, the "surrounding play." When 10-x-(x)-(x) is to the right and the player on lead has the K-J-9-(x) or A- -9-(x), the proper card to lead is the jack. If declarer has Q-x-x-(x) and partner the expected ace or king, the lead of the jack gives the defense three tricks.