

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC FALL 2006 HONOLULU - HAWAII - 22-11-2006)

Dir: North Vul: E-w	NORTH ♠ A 10 ♥ 10 4 3 2 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ 6 5 4		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Diamond	Pass	1 Heart
			1 Spade	2 Heart	Pass	4 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ Q J 9 5 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ 8 3 ♣ A Q J 3		EAST ♠ K 8 7 6 ♥ 9 7 5 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ 10 7 2	Opening Lead = ♠Q			
	SOUTH ♠ 4 3 ♥ A K Q J ♦ J 10 5 2 ♣ K 9 8					

Bidding commentary: Playing “support doubles,” North’s raise to 2♥ shows four hearts, while a double of 1♠ would show three hearts. Not playing support doubles, a single raise (as many play) can show three or four hearts. In any case, South, with a double fit (an upgrade), has a clear cut 4♥ bid.

Lead commentary: Suits headed by the Q-J-9 are normally strong leads. East signals encouragement with the ♠8, the highest equal, at trick one

Play commentary: The North-South hands have “mirrored” (identical) distribution. Mirrored distributions lead to strip and endplay strategies. Declarer wins the ♠A, draws trumps, strips diamonds from the opponents’ hands and exits a spade hoping for something good to happen in clubs.

Defensive commentary: After declarer strips the hand and exits a spade, East wins the ♠K and should have a count of the four hands. Partner has shown out on the third round of each red suit and needs five spades for the overcall.

Translation: South has exactly three clubs, and three club tricks are needed to defeat the contract. Furthermore, East can lead clubs only once. East must project West to have the A-Q-J-x and lead the ♠10. This lead prevents South from ducking the trick into West, forcing a club lead from the ace