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# Middle of the Road Goes Nowhere

THE MIDDLE of the road is crowded. In these days of rapid movement it can be a dangerous place, literally or figuratively.

The notion that the median is the safest and most sensible spot might have originated with politicians who did not want their constituents to know which way they were headed.

No doubt, a lot of voters have been fooled by this stance, for we would not have elected to office some of the people whom we have supported and later regretted.

Politicians are not the only ones who dodge issues by taking the "middle ground." Citizens have been encouraged to do so since World War II, as orators have ranted against what they called "polarization," meaning taking definite stands.

This, of course, did not affect groups often identified as "extremists," who could be either to the far right or far left. In fact, middle-of-the-rovers made it easier for them to operate.

As Sen. Robert S. Kerr used to

say, "If you don't stand for something, you may fall for anything." You don't need to look far to find people who have fallen for political or social hogwash because they didn't stand for anything themselves.

The biggest hazard of standing in the middle of the road is that you can see people rushing by in all directions. One might become confused by the noise and forget where he intended to go.

A good example is taxation and government spending. Nearly everybody realizes both are necessary but we frequently get mixed up in the middle of the road trying to travel both with those favoring a balanced budget and those favoring more or larger handouts.

Another is the issue of drunken driving. Probably no other one thing has caused us much misery in the world as alcoholic beverages. They are the only cause of drunken driving and at least half of some 50,000 automobile fatalities annually.

Organizations against drunken driving are sprouting like weeds.

Middle-of-the-rovers probably belong to some of them but still may vote for "more liquor by more drinks."

Many patriotic, peace loving, middle-of-the-road Americans want the United States to remain free but don't want to do what is necessary to ensure that we stay that way.

Most people say they believe in God and favor freedom of religion. Yet some aim for the middle of the road, don't attend church but practice immorality as a normal way of life and worship depraved movie and sports figures as heroes. Such people are trying to travel two directions at once.

Congress, the American Bar Association and other groups have lost their way trying to establish middle-of-the-road ethics for their members to follow.

There may be times when compromises are necessary, but matters of honesty and right are not negotiable. If we don't stand for something worthwhile, we may fall for something else.