

PAY-PHONE PROVOGATEUR Actor Tony Randall was among the crowd gathered at Nation magazine's offices on Friday for a reception marking the an exhibit of works by **Robert Cenedella**, whose caustic wit and painting technique is reminiscent of George Grosz, who was his teacher and mentor. Mr. Cenedella has a lively personality, and at one point gave away S&H Green Stamp with purchase of his paintings.

At the event, Nation magazine publisher and editorial director Victor Navasky recalled an anecdote about the time Mr. Cenedella printed yellow and black "out of order" stickers to put on pay phones in the city that weren't working. Journalist Murray Kempton was putting one on a phone in a 14th Street subway station when "the long arm of the law" - a policeman - reached out from behind him and asked, "Just what do you think you're doing?" When Kempton said he thought he was doing a public service, the policeman said, "We can't just have any person putting these up." The audience laughed when Mr. Navasky told how a New York Telephone company representative once rebutted Mr. Cenedella's claim that about 80% of phones were out of order by countering that only about 50% weren't working.



THE KNICKERBOCKER

NATION-BUILDING Victor Navasky and artist Robert Cenedella.