

TAKE HEART

A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,
Maine Poet Laureate*

The late Philip Booth of Castine, one of the most important poets of his generation, was known for his ability to compress meanings into a small space. In today's poem he discusses the social reality of America in just ten lines.

United States

By Phillip Booth

All right, we are two nations.

Immaculate floors, ceilings broken
only by skylights, The insulated
walls, the soundless heat; and hidden
everywhere, a fan for every odor.

Of our two nations
that is one.

And you who will not
read this
presume you know the other.

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