

HOTLINE FROM HOLLYWOOD...



ONE thing I know David is always short of – and that's time! So I always think twice before asking him to put through one of these Hotline calls to be taped specially for you.

You see, I know he won't refuse – no matter how busy he is; and I also know that, once he has promised to 'phone, he will keep that promise even if it turns out to be very awkward.

So, I just asked him to give me a call if he could "spare a minute" and I told him to make it any time at all during day or night . . . 'cos I'd be there! I'd be quite happy to grope my bleary-eyed way to the 'phone in the middle of the night if necessary wouldn't you!!!

But, of course, David had thought of the time difference and the clock said a rather undramatic quarter to eleven one evening when the 'phone rang. He'd dialled straight through, so the first sound I heard (after one or two routine crackles) was his voice;—

DAVID: Gee! Pat – I got through so easy! I felt sure you'd have to be out or trying to get an early night or something!

ME: What's an 'early night'? – it's something new on me!

DAVID: You don't say! I've heard tell they're pretty good things to have now and then, but nobody round here seems to have come across them either! Still I can't expect to at the moment, because I'm doing an awful lot of recording sessions right now and they don't get under way till about seven in the evening. And, boy, do they travel on into the night!

ME: Great! you mean you've got lots of new solo records coming up! Or have you been working on Partridge Family numbers all the time?

DAVID: A bit of both actually . . . Shirley and I have been spending lots of studio hours doing pre-recordings for the first five or six music tracks in the new series –

ME: (interrupting) But I didn't think you started shooting again till next Monday!

DAVID: That's right. But, you see, we do the music sound-tracks separately in advance. The idea is to keep about five shows ahead of the filming schedule.

Of course, whenever a song comes into the script, we go through the whole thing again in action in front of the cameras . . . And there's no miming or anything – we all sing and play for real . . . The only difference is that you never get to hear that performance on the show because the pre-recorded track is dubbed in! Well, that's just one of those technical things about musical movies I guess, Pat.

DAVID CALLING

ME: Yes. But tell me some more about your solo work, David.

DAVID: Well, I've been working on another album and I've really enjoyed myself – I'd like to think that the music I've canned on it already is the best I've ever done, but I guess it's up to other people to decide that when they come to hear it! The thing that's bugging me a bit just now is hitting on the right title for it.

I guess that sounds mighty strange to you Pat . . . But I think the name you send an album out into the world with is kind of important . . . You see, I reckon it should both reflect the mood of the songs *and* carry some sort of impact on its own.

But I'm finding it's not that easy! So I guess I'll end up with something really ordinary in the end – like "the David Cassidy Album Number Two"!! Mind, don't get me wrong on this – it's the music on those tracks that's most important for me all the way. And I'd like to think that all my fans buy my music for the *sound* – not for some crazy title or fancy sleeve! Still, all the same, I'll carry on trying . . . I think about it at times like when I'm in my shower or cleaning my teeth – Y'know, all those times when you expect inspiration to come to you!

ME: You will let us know when you do finally decide won't you?

DAVID: Sure will – or I'll get Linda to pass on the good news. Or, who knows, I'll maybe fly over to tell you in person!

ME: I just wish you would, you know that. Nearly every time I pick up the phone at the office these days, it's somebody wanting to know when your next visit will be. Any ideas at all on it yet?

DAVID: 'Fraid not, Pat. As far as I know there's still nothing definite – I'll have to check it out with Jim. But, you see, the big problem is that I've got so many other commitments through this summer and into the fall that it's quite a head-ache trying to slot in a semi-vacation like that into the schedule! You know how I feel about it – just give me an hour's notice and I'd be on that plane with suitcase packed and everything!