

BEN GAZZARA plays the prosecutor, LORNE GREENE is the defense attorney and JOHN PLESSETTE portrays Lee Harvey Oswald in ABC's four-hour TV-movie "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald." Producer CHARLES FRIES is shooting the film in Texas where, he said, "We're going into his rooming house, the Texas theater where they picked him up, the school-book depository, in and around the Dallas police station". . . DAVID JANSSEN, STEFANIE POWERS, ALLEN GARFIELD and LINDA EVANS are in producer JIM BYRNES' NBC TV-movie "The Blackjack Hijack." The film, based on a book by CHARLES EINSTEIN, is about a man who fakes suicide in a plot to leave his wife . . . JIMMIE WALKER stars in the CBS TV-film "Morris Bird III," the story of a black youth in the 1950s.

There's a chance that ALEX KARRAS, broadcasting boothmate of FRANK GIFFORD and HOWARD COSELL on ABC's Monday Night Football, may miss the opening kickoff next season. In fact, he may miss the whole season. "I have been a sportscaster for three years," he told us recently. "And I enjoyed it. But I really want to be an actor and find that the football season is the busiest time in production. So I haven't been able to fit much acting in." Before football gets underway, though, Karras stars in "Mad Bull," a CBS TV-film in which he plays a Greek wrestler. Alex added that he could leave sportscasting without remorse because he doesn't think it's his forte. "I speak too slowly," he said. "I don't know the numbers, and I can't do the promos that fast." Even so, viewers got the feeling he knew what was happening down on the field.

Peyton Place veterans DOROTHY MALONE, ED NELSON, CHRIS CONNELLY and TIM O'CONNOR are getting together again to costar in "Murder in Peyton Place," an NBC TV-movie they're making at 20th Century Fox . . . After sleuthing privately in Cannon for several years, WILLIAM CONRAD is playing the title role in ABC's film "Keefer," about a World War II undercover agent who operates behind enemy lines. When he's not spying, Keefer runs a Lisbon nightclub . . . BURGESS MEREDITH, PAUL PICERNI and ROBERT BROWN are in the cast of NBC's TV-film "The Last Hurrah," which stars CARROLL O'CONNOR.

Actor ROSSANO BRAZZI brings a touch of Italy to a segment of Hawaii Five-0 being telecast on CBS during '77-78 . . . BRODERICK CRAWFORD, star of the vintage cop-series Highway Patrol, gets arrested for drunk driving in a guest appearance on NBC's CHiPs, a show about two motorcycle patrolmen . . . BERNIE CASEY, former professional football player and sometime artist, costars with SUSAN DEY in the CBS TV-film about child abuse, "Mary Jane Harper Cried Last Night." It's being made at Paramount Studio . . . Hollywood social note: BRUCE BOXLEITNER and KATHRYN HOLCOMB, who play brother and sister in How the West Was Won, were married recently.

PICTURE CREDITS: 15—Ralph Pabst/Camera 5 • 22—Christopher Little/Camera 5