

Liz Smith



Farrah's ploy

NEW YORK — Don't Make Me Laugh, my lips are chapped, as that little kid said when her mother fell into a crevice in the Alps Now listen, I know if you hear Farrah You-Know-Who one more time, you'll just faint. But here's the latest.

She won't make "Body and Soul" with O. J. Simpson as I thought she might. She will make something for Paramount called "Poul Play," to be directed by the author of "Silver Streak." Coincidentally,

And she will be back on "Charlie's Angels" next

jobs will doubtless develop.

Scandaltime: Usually scandals out of Hollywood are about sex, drugs or kickbacks. (These are the three favorite attack weapons of the scandal-monger.) But here's a real scandal that doesn't involve any of those three things.

All L.A. can talk about is how director Billy Friedkin didn't want Peter Finch's widow, Eletha, to come up and accept his Oscar in the event the late actor won for "Network." In pre-Oscar cast meetings, Friedkin insisted he didn't want "any sentimentality" and added, "It's not going to be that kind of TV show."

Screenwriter Paddy Chayevsky argued and so did director Sidney Lumet. But Paddy finally agreed he'd accept in case

Finch won best actor. The rest is history. The minute Paddy got on stage, he ignored Friedkin's dictum and called Eletha Finch to the podium. Later Paddy expounded that he thought sentimentality and emotion were what the movie business was all about. He cited Louise Fletcher's emotional thank-you to her parents in sign language and said, "If sentimentality is inappropriate, how does one account for the fact that the greatest moment in 'A Star Is Born' is when Either Bloodgett says, 'Ladies and gentlemen, this is Mrs. Norman Maine!'"

Eletha Finch's appearance and words accepting her dead husband's Oscar were so potent that nobody's heard a peep out of director Friedkin since it happened.

The Nixon Mix: If

you're interested in the kind of questions David Frost is going to put to Richard Nixon on the forthcoming television interviews, you might want to read Dr. David Abrahamson's incredible new book "Nixon vs. Nixon."

An associate of Frost went to the doctor's office last December to talk to him about how to approach the ex-president in questioning him. Dr. Abrahamson, who analyzes Nixon as "an emotional tragedy" in his book, gave his best advice for the type of interview he was unable to conduct with Nixon in doing his book.

By the way, don't just assume the book is a blast at Nixon — it turns out to be quite touching and sympathetic and understanding in many respects and it does help unravel a bit of the enigma of the 37th President.

year. All that bull about wanting \$100,000 and quitting was a ploy. The producers have upped her salary to \$10,000 a week from \$5,000, and they will cooperate and work out a schedule so she can make this feature film too.

Farrah has been off with Lee Majors learning to ski for the movie. Yesterday New York TV star Stanley Siegel asked someone on the air what they thought of Farrah's talent. They said they thought she acted mostly with her hair — and teeth. But just like Marilyn Monroe and other beauties, Ms. Fawcett-Ma-