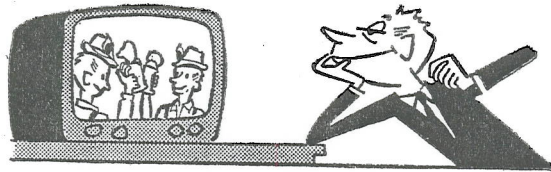
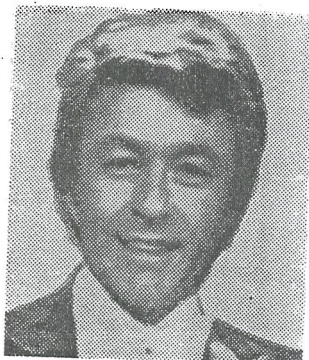


Terrence O'Flaherty



Maude, Dick and Vietnam

REACTIONS have been bouncing all over the broadcasting world this week. First, there was "Maude's" abortion, then the partial blackout of the antiwar play "Sticks and Bones," and now some broadcasters are bracing themselves for White House pressure to discontinue their coverage of the Watergate hearings when they resume September 10.



Bill Bixby

"Maude" couldn't win no matter what she did. Stations that showed it in Ohio were picketed by "Women Concerned for Life" who wanted it censored while stations that blacked it out in New York State were castigated by the Council of Churches who wanted it shown. The seven companies who withdrew their sponsorship of the rerun for fear of Cath-

olic boycott are now faced with a boycott by pro-abortion groups who resented their withdrawal.

It was a case of dammed-if-you-do and damned-if-you-don't. In my estimation the strongest argument in favor of Maude's abortion was the possibility of having another little Maude running around loose.

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AND, AS FOR President Nixon's most recent protestations of innocence (the third in a series—all reruns), broadcasters were concerned over the following statement which looked to some observers like a strong hint of displeasure:

"During the past three months the three major networks have devoted an average of over 22 hours of television time each week to this subject."

Frankly I was more interested in how any true average could be "over" anything. It's either 22.4 or 22.5 hours or the like. Let's be more specific, Mr. President. No wonder the economy is shot to hell.

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TOMORROW'S BIG FOUR Interview Line-up:
CBS: "Face the Nation"—Senator Mike Mans-
Senate Majority Leader (10:30
Times and An-