

Mort Sahl Walks Out On Play

*No Reason Is
Given for Exit*



MORT SAHL
Last Minute Move

NEW YORK — (UPI) — Mort Sahl, the entertainer known to nightclub and television audiences for his baggy sweaters and barbed comments on the social scene, has walked out on his own off-Broadway show.

He failed to appear for Friday night's scheduled first preview of "Mort Sahl," a political satire review which he wrote and in which he was to star with four other performers.

Michael Brandman, producer and principal backer of the show, said yesterday he would seek damages and costs from Sahl, who started his career at San Francisco's Hungri i. He estimated the loss, including \$6000 in advance sales, at \$20,000.

Sahl, 40, was believed to have returned to his Beverly Hills home.

Brandman said Sahl had gone into hiding in the New

York apartment of Playboy publisher Hugh Hefner Monday, but associates had assured the company he would appear for the final rehearsals.

"First he missed the technical rehearsal Wednesday night. Then he missed the dress rehearsal Thursday afternoon and Friday morning we got a telegram from him from Beverly Hills," Brandman said. "We've abandoned the production and given up the theater.

"He began to get increasingly more concerned about the quality of the show but I can't explain why," Brandman said. "It was brilliant. His monologues are funny and incisive. He's the only political satirist in America today and the time is right for him. It's a terrible loss."