

numbers quite a few times because a lot of phone calls kept coming in asking, 'Is David Cassidy there?' So, I mean, in things like that they've obviously been affected."

David assured them that, yes, he would make a movie — "if a good enough project comes along," and no, he is "absolutely not" perfect, as some teen magazines suggest.

How did he feel about one particular article that said he was very self-centered and didn't care about the Vietnam war?

"I was told about that article," the young singer said, seriously. "In particular, that I was self-centered. Maybe I am. But I suppose everyone cares a bit about himself. What I did say was this: 'What is good for David Cassidy is not necessarily good for you.' It applies to me only. I'm not involved in the Vietnam war because I don't have a rifle in my hands. How can I honestly say, 'Why are we there?' I don't feel qualified, and, obviously that writer felt that I was too preoccupied with my career and making records. . . . What's my draft number? Two years ago it was 346. I have to tell you that was really one of the biggest weights that was ever lifted off me. I remember that day. I was just starting to get some momentum up which is a big part of becoming an actor and working and I was really involved. I think I was doing a *Bonanza* show at the time. I had done about three or four shows in a row. I really felt I was starting something happening. Then this whole thing happened with the lottery and I remember coming home from work. I mean I was a wreck. I was sitting there and my whole future was being decided. They'll say, 'We'll give you a job when you come back.' It's not like that for an actor or someone in my position so I think I was very fortunate."

Again that question on how he feels about the "rumor" that his father is jealous because David is more popular than he is:

"I don't really know. . . . When he looks at me I don't get the feeling that he resents me. I get the feeling he's awed by the situation, as am I. You know, not by me, myself, but by the situation."

I was glad when that session was over because I could see how tired David was. But, in spite of that, he tried to see as many people individually as he could, sign as many autographs as is humanly possible. And always, always, always he was gracious and polite and friendly.

By the time we arrived at The Garden on Saturday, tension was mounting. David had taken a turn for the worse; he was running a temperature and his voice was beginning to give way. It was decided to do the complete run-through of the show without him, to save whatever voice he had for the concert.

By the time Bruce Morrow (Cousin Brucie of WABC-Radio) opened the show, guards at The Garden were having their hands full just keeping the over anxious audience seated. The Ellingsons sang; then Dawn. By that time the kids were hooting and stamping their feet and calling for "DAAA-VIDDDDDDD!" To use up some of this energy, Cousin Brucie had the audience — 21 thousand strong — sing *Happy Birthday* to David, who was watching the show on closed circuit PHOTO SCREEN

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