



Still, I didn't mind too much, because I specially wanted to be through at the studios by the middle of this month. So, for me at least, it was worth going all out to get those last few segments of the series in the can. Even if it did mean just glimpsing Christmas in passing!

But there I go . . . exaggerating again!

I'm really not complaining at all. I had a great time in my usual quiet sort of way. I hope you did too.

Ah, well, 1974 should certainly see me turning over some new stones. And, the way I look at it, that can only be good! Within a week I'll be walking off the set at Columbia Ranch for the last time . . . At least, as a working member of the Partridge Family. Though I guess if the show stays in production, I'll be calling in from time to time in the future—just to say 'Hi' to all my friends.

I know I'll feel kinda sad when the time comes to say goodbye, although it's what I want really . . . to have the chance to do some different things for a while. But I know that, as I walk off the stage for the last time, I'll remember only all the good times we've had. And something deep inside of me will fight against going. As I clear out the last few things from my dressing-room, it's gonna seem awful bare and impersonal all of a sudden.

MOMENT OF DOUBT

And, for a moment, I won't want to go.

I guess it's only natural. . . . You put your roots down in a place, you get attached to people, and it seems kind of a wrench when you walk away from all that into the unknown.

But I'm not walking into the unknown, am I?

Because, wherever I go, I'd like to think I'll have you around. And I've gotten so many exciting things lined up for the start of this new year.

Very soon now I shall be welcoming two British friends to the States, and I'm really looking forward to that. I'm talking about the Muscular Dystrophy Treasure Hunt prize-winners, of course. Though right now I still haven't heard news of who they are. So I don't even know whether to expect guys or girls! But, whoever they are, they should be over around the middle of the month. And they've just got to be really lovely people to be aiding such a worthwhile organisation as that.

Hey! Maybe it'll be you who'll step off that plane! Did you join the Hunt? If you did, I sure

hope you had great fun—even if you didn't win a prize.

It's lucky they didn't have me as one of the judges, really. I'd be awful in a job like that, 'cos I always want *everyone* to win. So you'd *all* have been coming over to see me by the plane load! Sure it would have been wonderful . . . But I guess the idea was to raise money, not to spend it! So maybe that's why I wasn't asked to be judge in the first place . . .

Still, if you can't all get over to see me, I'll be doing the next best thing by visiting with you very soon now. It should only be a matter of a few months. But I still don't know exact times and dates for any of the concerts yet, because the start-off date from L.A. hasn't been finally fixed.

Let me tell you roughly what the plan reads like so far . . . Well, I'll have to be in town till around the 20th of the month. Because that's roughly when I'm expecting my British visitors to turn up. And, besides, there'll be all sorts of bits and ends to finish off as far as the Partridge Family goes.

Then I'm going to take a holiday. February in the sun and snow . . . That's the general idea. Maybe Italy, maybe Hawaii—maybe both! I'll have to see. But I really mean to get myself in form for my upcoming World Tour.

Because I can tell you, those concert tours are fantastic, but are they exhausting! And, if I start off tired, I won't really be giving myself, or my audiences, a fair deal.

As soon as I come bouncing back into L.A., I'll be getting down to work on a brand new act for the tour. Of course, I'll be keeping one or two oldies in. But, for the most part, I want this show to reflect me and my music as it is **NOW!** And so much has been happening for me on the music front lately, that most of the show'll just have to be new material.

I hope a good bit of it will be my own. Because I've been into writing in a big way of late. And I've got a feeling that some of the songs are quite good—though I say it myself!!!

But it'll all take quite a lot of working out. So I guess I'll be working with my band in L.A. through March. And recording some, too, I guess. Because I'm gonna be away a while. So it'd be as well to have some tracks laid ready for release.

Love,
David