

TALKING TO DAVID

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where he's at now. And, while commercial considerations have come a definite second to the music, he'd obviously like it to sell—if only to show that he can attain success *his way*.

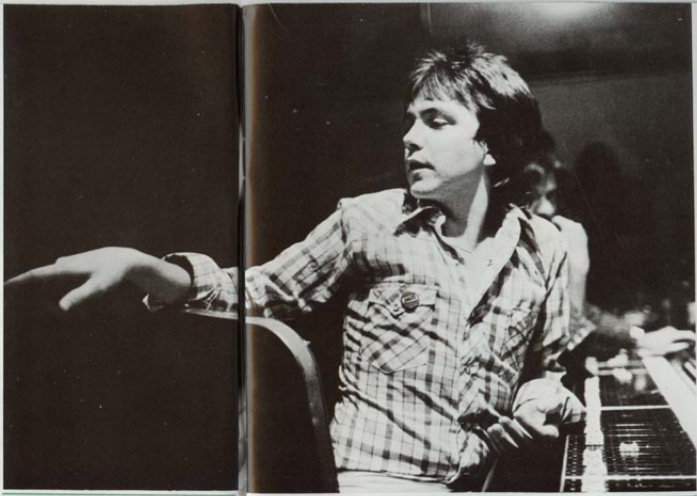
In fact, when we talked, he seemed to be rather concerned about all the reports of his 'opting out' and being too late to make a comeback. As he explained, he's been ready to get into production for a while back. He hasn't been holding it up out of apathy, lack of ideas, interest or whatever. It's just been kind of difficult to give explanations till all the blocks were finally gotten out of the way. You see, it's all been a question of business complications and legal hassles in getting everything fixed with Screen Gems and Bell Records. And let's get it straight right now... it's not that either side has been specially difficult; it's just that—as anyone involved in the business will know—these things move awful slow and take a hell of a long time.

EXPLANATION?

Meanwhile, I guess Dave resented the idea that he 'owed' an explanation to anyone. He reckoned that anyone who understood him would be prepared to wait patiently till he was ready. And, as for the others... well, he didn't reckon to lose too much sleep over them!

Instead, he's been putting a lot of his energies into his horses, and his big break for relaxation this month was taking the whole of the first weekend of May off to go back East for the Kentucky Derby. He hadn't a horse of his own running—this year! But he said to tell you that, if it does ever happen, you'll surely know about it because he'll be chartering a plane for everybody to go see it! He reckons he'll be proud enough when one of his horses gets to be entered... It won't have to win!

Next vacation, plans will be to head for Hawaii just for a while to unwind completely before finalising details of his promotional tour. Not that he's uptight or anything. In fact, right now he's the most together I've ever seen him. He's living life at a much slower pace than, say, two years ago when everything was one long frantic rush-about. Now he's taking things far more relaxed and, as a result, he can focus on a



deliberate direction instead of floundering about trying to keep his head above the surface.

And talking of his head, I cleared up with him the question of 'hair' as requested. I never did figure which way you British preferred Dave to wear his locks—but I hope you came out in favour of the longer look, 'cos that's what he's 'heading' back to. Most folks over here (specially the girls) certainly prefer the sleek, long look. Even Dave himself has never been much in support of short styles generally. But

he tried to explain why he felt that he just had to have it all chopped off at that precise moment in time.

He's obviously still not quite sure he understands it all fully himself. But he reckons that it was something kind of symbolic of his final break with the Partridge Family and all that it meant to him. After all, he's worn his hair that way for some four, five years all told and it had been a dominant part of his image as 'Keith'. He felt that he had to make a violent change from the physical image that had looked up at him

from so many journals and magazines. And his hair seemed the right candidate to do the trick. So off it came. And David assures me that he felt better and freer immediately!

But he only ever really intended it as a temporary change of image... to feel that he had a bit of breathing space to feel his way in. Now he's proved the big change in more fundamental ways, he feels it's about time to go back to the longer hair he genuinely prefers.

He's proved his point now. He's got a voice of his own.