

HOT-LINE FROM HOLLYWOOD!

DAVID TALKING

Before David left us to return to the States, he'd promised to give me a call as soon as he'd settled back in over there . . .

That was a promise that caused havoc in my life, 'cos every time I picked up the 'phone I just couldn't help hoping! Can you blame me?

Then, finally, it happened! I lifted the receiver and — there, at the other end of the line, was that one-in-a-trillion voice . . .

DAVID: Hallo, Pat! It's great to be rapping with you again.

ME: *It's wonderful to hear you, David. Are you okay, now? You really had us all worried, you know . . .*

DAVID: Oh, I'm fine right now. It took me a week or so to get back on form, but I think it was plain exhaustion more than anything else! There were so many outtasight things to do in Britain that I guess I tried to pack a few too many into that short time! That'll teach me to try cramming six weeks' fun into ten days!!

ME: *Well, as long as it seemed like fun — and not too much like hard work, that's all right. We're sometimes a little worried that the pressure might get too much for you.*

DAVID: That's real sweet of you, but I can honestly tell you that I loved every minute of my trip to Britain. I even enjoyed those last couple of days in bed! Everyone was so kind, and some of my fans sent me such beautiful get well greetings . . . I couldn't help feeling happy, even though I was feeling pretty lousy in myself right then.

So, if you're going to be printing any of this, Pat, I'd like to say how very deeply touched I was by all the love those girls gave me, all through the trip. I wanted to try and thank them all at the airport when I was due to leave — but I just couldn't begin. How do you start thanking folks, when you're so overwhelmed with the thought of parting from them?

But I just hope they got some idea of the way I was feeling.

Because, you know, there's something very special about British fans . . . There's a depth of loyalty and understanding that comes through, and it's wonderful for any artist to feel that, I can tell you.

ME: *Did you take back any souvenirs this time to remind you of Britain and the tour, David?*

DAVID: You bet! Well, you know about that magnificent fur coat Bell Records gave me . . .

And I had so many lovely keepsakes from fans too. I did buy a few things for myself, as well. I'd have bought more, but I simply didn't get too much time spare for shopping expeditions!

We went to a really nice shopping area in London, around Beauchamp Place, and I bought some shoes there, 'cos they're so much nicer and better made — not to mention cheaper! — than I could get back here. I reckon Britain is way ahead of us in the quality of all things like clothes and shoes, so I always like to bring back something special when I'm over.

ME: *Anything else apart from the shoes?*

DAVID: Oh, sure . . . I took back a couple of duvets, too — plus an extra one for Bull's Eye.

ME: *(Wondering if I was going slightly mad) A duvet? . . . For Bull's Eye!!!*

DAVID: (Laughing) Well, not exactly a full size one for him — so you can quit having a fit! No . . . I bought two full size ones for the beds in my house, and then a pillow for Bull's Eye . . . It's just the right size as a mattress for him. And, boy, was he thrilled! Mind you, I think it was as much with seeing me back home as it was with the present! You know, it's funny . . . I'm sometimes away from home for days on end in the States, or only at home to sleep . . . So there are sometimes long spells when the dogs hardly see me. Yet somehow they seem to know when I've gone further away . . . Perhaps they sense it from the extra panic when I'm packing! I don't know.

ME: *Well, you can talk! I seem to remember you missing them just a little bit as well!*

DAVID: Sure, I missed them! I guess I must be the sort of guy who needs roots, you know, Pat . . . Roots in places and — even more — roots in people. 'Cos, no matter how much of a good time I'm having, I still get a tiny bit home-sick.

But, for me, that's what's so fantastic about Britain now. I feel I've gotten to fit into your country, and I've made lots of friends I can look up each new time I get over to see you.

So that when I'm over with you, that home-sickness hardly appears at all — except as a little twinge for the friends I've left back there now and again.

And now I'm back here, of course, the twinges are all the other way round!

So I'm hoping it won't be too long before I can fit in another visit . . . Even if it's just for a quick vacation some time.