

Another Gangland Killing?

By MARVIN KITMAN

Any time a network wants to bump off a show, they put it on opposite Archie Bunker on CBS. The series that is obviously marked for extinction next season is *The Partridge Family*.

The wholesome ABC series, starring David Cassidy, had been performing a valuable public service for years — keeping millions of teen-age girls off the streets and in the home on Friday nights. But for some reason, ABC management became disenchanted with the charisma of Cassidy, the nation's biggest sex symbol since Bobby Sherman.

Next spring, ABC will be able to point to the low ratings — opposite *All in the Family* — as the reason it must drop *The Partridge Family*. The network's hands will be clean as they are turned hopelessly to the sky. It's the perfect crime.

Informed observers say this major change — which belies the charge that there is no excitement or controversy in the fall schedules — is going to lead to terrible conflicts in the American home every Saturday night. The younger generation (9-13) will want to watch David Cassidy. The older generation (14-84) will want to watch Archie Bunker. The conditions are ripe for an outbreak of bad feeling between the generations.

"It's the 'Bad Seed' story all over again," predicts a broadcasting authority. "Don't be surprised if the kids don't begin wiping out their parents over this issue."

No broadcasting authority was willing to be quoted on the number of killings expected to take place in the event of the program shuffling. But one would be too many. The very fabric of American society will be rent by the ABC "rip-off" artists.