

V CANDIDS by Terrence O'Flaherty

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Peggy Cass is one of the two human beings in a new TV series about a family of chimpanzees, titled "The Hathaways." (And sometimes I'm not too sure about HER!) Ever since the show started she has complained about the chimps in press interviews and on TV shows.

I think it is time the chimps were allowed to tell THEIR side of the story. As a consequence, I'd like to offer the little apes equal time on "PM West."

I'll bring bananas and promise not to mention Darwin.

Or Miss Cass either, for that matter.

Marilyn Maxwell tells about her hasty departure from the role of the owner of a diner on "Bus Stop," the new ABC show: "I just took off my apron and walked out."

Dorothy Kilgallen told Mike Wallace the beginning

of her feud with Jack Paar. "It's very simple. He thought Fidel Castro was a hero and I thought he was a menace... As for what he has said about me since, I couldn't care less."

I knew you'd want to know.

The Neatest Substitution of the Year (from NBC): "On Sunday, Dec. 17, the du Pont Show of the Week will be "Trick or Treason' instead of 'Fads and Foibles' as previously scheduled."

The most amusing news of the new television season is that "The Untouchables" are being machinegunned to the wall by "Sing Along With Mitch." The ratings indicate that the public would rather sing "Cuddle Up a Little Closer" on NBC than get run over by a bunch of Chicago hoods in a 1925 Marmon on ABC. Maybe the tide is turning.

"The Untouchables," long known as "The Italian Family Hour" — before the gangsters' names were changed — is a well-produced drama that has been at or near the top of the week's popularity lists for more than a year. Any program opposite it was sure to be trounced. But "The Untouchables" is also one of TV's most costly hours. This means that it is more than usually sensitive to sponsors' wishes.

And sponsors are as sensitive to ratings as the princess and the pea.

After trying to beat it with everything from musicals to games to drama, someone thought of "Sing Along With Mitch" and almost immediately it became a threat to Elliot Ness. As it stands now, Mitch may be the only man in history to beat Elliot Ness to the punch

TV Producer Bob Banner: "I am annoyed by people who are continually running down television. Forty years ago, how many people had ever seen and heard a symphony orchestra or an opera or a classical drama? How, but on TV, could people see the Kefauver committee, the United Nations?

"Recently there has been a leveling off, but I look for an upturn. It may be slow but it will happen. Hopefully, TV will always be one notch above the standard of viewers. It will try to lead without getting so far ahead it loses its audience." (Banner produces "Candid Camera" and the "Garry Moore Show.")

"Special" ahead: "The Enchanted Nutcracker" will be presented as a Christmas musical with Carol Lawrence and Robert Goulet. The ABC press department described it as "freely adapted from Tchaikovsky's 'Nutcracker Suite' by Sam and Bella Spewack." This is a kind of warning, I suppose (Saturday, Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m.).

