

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

Even though he appears to be hedging, I have indisputable evidence that Ronald Reagan is intending to run for Governor of California. He has been speeding up the fall filming of "Death Valley Days," which he hosts in the land of television, any tampering with the production schedule is serious business. Only death, politics, love or war ever change these plans. It can't be death, because Reagan is the healthiest looking candidate since John F. Kennedy. He has been married for years to a fine-looking woman, the former Nancy Davis, and he has already fought World War II, so it must be politics. But is Reagan of "Death Valley Days" ready to walk in

the valley of the shadow of politics? DURING THE recent shooting of a TV film, Reagan was tied to a stake and nicked by a saber tossed by an overzealous member of the Screen Extras Guild. "It was just a scratch, but I could have been skewered," said Reagan good-naturedly. To be tied at the stake and skewered—what better training for the gubernatorial race?—I observed. "Not exactly," said Reagan. "In politics you get skewered from the back. I'm afraid I'll have to face the other way in the future." IT IS OBVIOUS that he is well prepared for the questions he will face. After all, Reagan was once a sports announcer in the radio days

when it was necessary to improvise. Who can claim to have passed a more gruelling test for instantaneous repartee? The most obvious question of all is one that will likely be asked by his Democratic political opponents: What preparation does a performer have for political office? "This didn't bother the Democrats when they asked me to run for Congress as a Democrat," said Reagan. "George Murphy was the selection of voters from both parties. And then there's Helen Gahagan Douglas, who was a musical comedy star. I've been active in politics, you might say, since the early 40s. REAGAN WAS referring to his work for the Screen Actors Guild in 1941 and later when his fellow performers made him its president for six terms from 1947 to 1959 during its critical negotiations with studio executives.

Reagan was a Democrat until 1952, when he switched to General Eisenhower. ("Didn't everyone?" he asked.) "I've been speaking politically for 15 years because of my personal concern over the increase of power of the central government. I campaigned in 1960 and 1962." Most television viewers were introduced to Ronald Reagan, the Politician, during the last presidential election when he made a nationally televised speech that was considered by both Republicans and Democrats to be an outstanding delineation of the conservative viewpoint. The speech caused his opponents to declare him a "one-speech politician." "Well, I received two awards from the Freedom Foundation, so I must have made at least two speeches!" he replied. REAGAN CONSIDERS himself lucky to have been associated with a show like "Death Valley Days" for the

past three years. "It's built around the kind of thing most Americans want to preserve," he said. Recently an old film of Reagan's appeared to television. He played a ballplayer, which caused one reader to write: "Hell, with a pitching arm like that he's too good for politics. He ought to be trying for the Giants." Reactions like this could be a drawback for Reagan if he runs for Governor. My neighbor, Mrs. Pellachotti, is still mad at him for standing up Rhonda Fleming in "Banana Boats."

Educators Take Part In Workshop

College and high school students at Long Beach City College and Woodrow Wilson High School will be provided accurate information and employment opportunities at Pacific Telephone Company in the fall. Counselors at both schools—Mrs. Selma Sax of Wilson High and Richard Muchow of LBCC—were on the company's payroll during their one-month summer workshop

with the firm. The educators were selected for the assignment by the Los Angeles Board of Education and local school superintendents.



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