

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

Every few months there's one song which makes the rounds of every TV show, and the current favorite is "The Impossible Dream." However, in all but the most skillful hands, it becomes The Unsingable Song. The frequency with which it is performed substantiates the claim that most singers sing the song which will impress other singers first, their voice teachers second, and the public last.

The "Soliloquy" from "Carousel" is a fine example of that sort of nerve-wracking musical exercise. "The Impossible Dream" is another. The demands they make on the viewer is monumental. Last year actor Richard

Harris — who should know better — challenged "The Impossible Dream" to a duel on "The Hollywood Palace." Harris lost. He was the first of what has become a long list of victims to be offered up on the altar of La Mancha.

THE OTHER week Jim Nabors was telling me what a thrill it was for him to sing a song on his "Gomer Pyle" show backed up by the 99-piece Marine Corps Band. "I'll bet you sang 'The Impossible Dream,'" I said.

"Now, hay-ow did yew know that?" he asked.

Nabors' manager confided that Richard Kiley, who introduced the song on the

Broadway show, "Man of La Mancha," once told a reporter that the man who sings it best is Nabors.

"My musical arrangement was for a 26-piece band and I sent it ahead to the Marine Corps," said Nabors. "But they wrote back: 'Make it bigger. We've got 26 clarinets!'"

Nabors managed to sing it on his show, and to survive without a blood transfusion. The next night on the Mike Douglas Special, Johnny Mathis was poised in front of a gigantic fountain in a Philadelphia civic plaza while an unseen orchestra in the underbrush warmed up. It was a familiar introduction. What was the song? Could it be? — "The Impossible Dream!"

THE MATHIS rendition was far above average. The moments of travail passed with a minimum of hand-wringing on my part, due in part, to the fact that the director could play with his zoom lens whenever the going got tough.

Students of this sort of thing will note that "The Impossible Dream" is invariably followed by a commercial announcement. This is because the emcee finds words impossible and the singer is sweating too much for a closeup.

After months of study I have found that "The Impossible Dream" averages six and a half minutes before waking. It just seems longer. It provides time to leave the room, get to the kitchen, open a bottle of beer, find a clean glass, pour a steady stream in the center of the glass so it foams right, mop up the foam that spills over, make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich (toasted), return to the living room—with a brief pause to look in the bathroom mirror. — and still get back in time to hear once again that last jaw-breaking note and catch the commercial.

GOP Names New Leader In Senate

Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO — Senator Donald L. Grunsky (R-Watsonville), a member of the legislature for 21 years, has been elected leader of the 20 Republicans in the state senate.

Grunsky replaces Senator John F. McCarthy (R-San Rafael), who has been GOP leader for the past 10 years.

Grunsky's election came after a series of meetings of Republicans concerning their situation in the senate, with half the members. The action was taken with 12 of the senators present and with proxies of four more on hand.

THE VOTE by the Republicans was only on the position of senate Republican leader and did not involve Grunsky's candidacy for president pro tempore of the senate when the new session begins in January. Grunsky said he still was a candidate and had been authorized by the caucus to seek support from Democrats

for the president pro tempore position.

Grunsky admitted there were not 20 Republican votes for the position. Asked why McCarthy had been replaced, Grunsky said it was no reflection or criticism of McCarthy but that "there is no life tenure in any political office and a substantial majority felt they wanted to elect myself."

GRUNSKY SAID it was expected the caucus would be more active, even though its intention would not be to in-

ject partisan politics into the senate. However, he said that when the Democrats organized a caucus and elected Senator George R. Moscone (D-San Francisco), as the leader, the Republicans felt they had to follow suit.

It was reported the Republicans were seeking to organize so that, even if they do not have enough votes to elect the president pro tempore, they can win some concessions by being given control of some of the major committees.

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Royal Scot **MARGARINE** 1-lb. Ctn. 2 for **35c**
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