

his audience.)

By JACK BAILEY

Written for the United Press HOLLYWOOD (UP)-Somebody sked me the other day. "What is

asked me the other day, "What is it like to be a comedian?" Frankly, I wouldn't know. I'm a straight man on my television show, "Truth or Consequences," just as I've been a straight man on "Queen for a Day" on radio for more than eight years. On both I'm billed, as they say

On both I'm billed, as they say backstage, as a master of cere monies—but that is a rather broad and misleading title. Straight Man

Since July of 1945, for instance, I've been straight man to women seeking to be crowned "Queen for a Day." I don't pull the gaglines, they do. With questions I actually feed the contestants the straight lines so they can provide their own jokes and punch lines, and they seldom fail to come through.

I thought things would be different when Ralph Edwards selected me to be encee of his video version of "Truth or Consequences" some months ago. I imagined that finally I was going to become a comedian.

But instead of being a "great, new comic," I found myself playing straight man again—only this time it was straight for a situation rather than to individuals. The things I said were intended only to develop and point up a comic situation. It—not me—would produce all the laughs. Funniest Line

On the "Queen for a Day" show a woman came through with the funniest line I ever heard. When asked what her wish would be if she were named queen, the woman said she would ask for an upperplate so she could play coronet in the church choir. After that, the only thing left for me was to shrink into the background.

But don't get me wrong. I thoroughly enjoy being a straight man and I've got lots of famous company in people like George Burns, Desi Arnaz, Sidney Miller, Rochester and many others. The comedians can have their constant struggle to find gag writers and get more laughs.

To tell the truth, maybe the consequences of being a straight man aren't really so bad after all.

Large Increase In State School Enrollment Seen

PORTLAND (2) - The number of school children in Oregon will go up another \$2,000 in the next six years and exceed 400,000 by 1960, Rex Putnam, state super-Intendent of public instruction, predicts.

Putnam told the Willamette Democratic Society that tremendous expenditures will be necessary to handle the increase.

He said the cost was 45 ½ million dollars for school expansion in Oregon in a two-year period from 1952 to 1954, and added that these schools "will be overflowing within a few years." Here you are, sir! Wonderful Hamm's Beer in your favorite 'stubby' bottles. The beer with refreshing Eastern flavor from the land of sky blue waters.]

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