

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
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Hollywood—(U.P.)—Television's hottest battle of the season is the Tuesday night competition between Milton Berle and Phil Silvers, with the rivalry already landing Uncle Miltie in the hospital.

Last year CBS' Ed Sullivan and NBC's Comedy Hour fought to the death on Sunday night for the top ratings. Sullivan emerged victorious. The Comedy Hour has given up the ghost and expires Dec. 25.

Now, the Berle-Silvers war is the new fracas on TV row. Silvers will win by default tonight because Berle was rushed to the hospital Monday suffering from "extreme exhaustion" from the strain of trying to oust his rival in the ratings this week.

Attack Plotted
Before Miltie collapsed I looked in on his rehearsal to see how the old master of TV was plotting his attack. As the time he looked tired, but he insisted he wasn't worried.

"I don't have to prove anything to the audience," Berle declared then.

"I've done 397 live hour shows," he said. "I have a lifetime contract with NBC."

His co-workers, however, said he had been rehearsing harder than usual in an effort to nose out Silvers' "You'll Never Get Rich" on rival CBS.

In Berle's place tonight, viewers will see guest stars Gale Storm, Vic Damone, Dick Contino and a film of an old Berle show with Tallulah Bankhead and Frank Sinatra.

Silvers' camp complained it lost because the announcer on the show preceding Berle's urged viewers to switch to Silvers' on CBS, sponsored by the same company.

New Rule Revealed
"Now there's a new rule—No sponsor can urge viewers to turn to another network," said Berle.

Mr. Television has a solution to the old problem of networks pitting the shows against each other. One-set viewers either lose out on a good show or keep busy flipping channels.

But under the Berle system, when he would appear on NBC the other networks would carry his show, too, in a "pooled" talent setup. In other words, no competition.

"When I look at TV I have to make a decision," he said. "I like Gleason, but Como is on at the same time, too. It's unfair to the viewers."

"But, then," he shrugged, "TV is a survival of the fittest. Dog eat Dog."

More Home Rule Urged for Municipals

Miami, Fla.—(U.P.)—A special assistant to President Eisenhower called on states yesterday to give cities and other urban areas more home rule and more representation in the state legislatures.

Meyer Kestnbaum of Chicago told city officials attending the American Municipal Congress here that more authority "must be given to cities and municipal areas."

"The constant urbanization of this country, and it's increasing all the time, demands that state legislatures realize more representation must come from urban areas," Kestnbaum said.

Gov. Paul L. Patterson of Oregon told the municipal delegates how his state solved the apportionment problem after 40 years of bickering without results. He said the voters adopted a constitutional amendment providing that if the Legislature did not re-apportion each 10 years, then the secretary of state must re-apportion.

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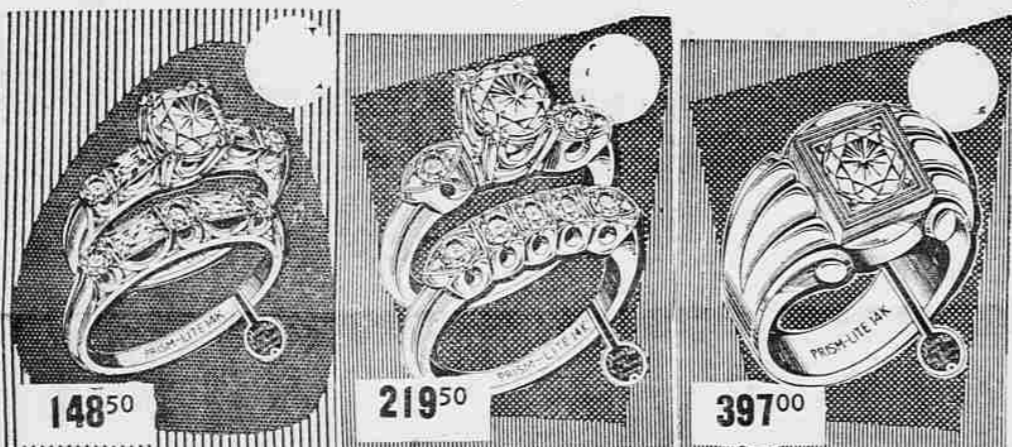
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