

ABC, by itself in season ratings, tries new shows

**There's 'third season' action
on all three TV networks**

ABC-TV is continuing its prime-time dominance in the "third-season" national Nielsens, with CBS lodged in second place, a long distance away from the leader, and NBC close to CBS in third place.

The season-to-dates give ABC a 22.1 rating, CBS an 18.7 and NBC an 18.4. That pattern has pretty much held since the first of the year. The Feb. 28-March 6 week showed ABC with a 21.4 rating, CBS with a 17.9 and NBC a 17.8.

Most of the marginal prime-time shows on ABC will be replaced for a few weeks in the third season by new shows that could end up as permanent replacements if they display rating strength. Sid and Marty Krofft Productions' *The Brady Bunch Hour* replaces *The Captain and Tennille* (Monday, 8-9 p.m.) for six weeks beginning March 21. Lorimar's *Eight Is Enough* replaces *Rich Man Poor Man: Book II* (Tuesday, 9-10 p.m.) for six weeks beginning March 22. Nicoll's, Ross's and

West's *Three's Company* replaces *The Tony Randall Show* (Thursday, 9:30-10 p.m.) for five weeks beginning March 24. Martin Starger's *Westside Medical* replaces *Streets of San Francisco* (Thursday, 10-11 p.m.) for four weeks beginning March 24. And Paramount Television's *Future Cop* will run irregularly for five weeks—the first one started Saturday, March 5 (8-9 p.m., in place of *Blansky's Beauties* and *Fish*) and managed only a marginal 16.2 rating and 29 share.

ABC's *Most Wanted* police show began inauspiciously in its new time period (Monday, 9-10 p.m.) with an 18.5 rating and 28 share on March 7. The show it leads into, *The Feather and Father Gang* (10-11 p.m.), sampled at an 18.3 rating and 32 share, second in the time period to a theatrical movie called "The Wind and the Lion" on NBC. (*Most Wanted* finished third in its time period.)

NBC researchers were crowing about the 27.3 rating and 46 share achieved by the two-hour pilot of a proposed new series called *The Man From Atlantis* (Friday, March 4, 9-11 p.m.). NBC has three more two-hour episodes of *Atlantis* to play off (in time periods to be announced), and if they do anywhere near as well as the opener, the series is a cinch to make the fall schedule, probably in 60-minute form, according to NBC sources. The other good bit of third-season news for NBC was that *The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams*, with another solid 21.0 rating and 32 share

on March 2 (8-9 p.m.), has made the grade—the NBC sources say it's an almost certain bet for renewal next fall. The sources also have hopes that the new Raymond Burr newspaper series from Universal, *Kingston: Confidential*, will chalk up survival numbers when it checks in for a multiweek run on Wednesday, March 23 (10-11 p.m.), replacing *Tales of the Unexpected*, which never got off the ground in the Nielsens.

CBS's second-season sitcom, *Busting Loose* (Monday, 8:30-9 p.m.), is holding its own with a 29 share in each of the past two weeks, good for a second-place finish in the time period. CBS's 30-minute weekly variety series, *The Jacksons* (Wednesday, 8:30-9 p.m.), has failed in the Nielsens, CBS sources say, and will be replaced for five weeks later this month by a new 20th Century-Fox Television sitcom called *Loves Me, Loves Me Not*, starring Susan Day (*The Partridge Family*). Fox Television's 60-minute police show, *Nashville 99*, which CBS thinks could make it, will replace another failed variety show, *Sonny and Cher* (Friday, 9-10 p.m.), later this month for a multiweek run.

Diagnosis-cure of TV violence is urged by Railsback, Moffett

**Representatives say specific
research and then congressional
muscle could alleviate problem**

Two congressmen told a Parent Teachers Association gathering in Washington last week that it is time to take action against violence on television.

One way, Representative Tom Railsback (R-Ill.) told the National PTA annual legislative conference Tuesday, would be for Congress to pass a resolution he introduced seeking more research into the relationship between violence on TV and real acts of aggression by children and adolescents.

Mr. Railsback said he is convinced such studies will show a connection between TV and the real thing. Mindful of the First Amendment's guarantee of free expression, Mr. Railsback said the commissioning of studies and hearings by the Congress would be a way of signaling rather than forcing the networks to tone down their programs.

But if the networks ignored the message, Mr. Railsback said, then Congress ought to move into a "second phase." Without being specific, he cautioned: "There comes a time when the basic freedom in the Bill of Rights might have to give way to an overriding public interest" in curtailing objectionable violence on TV.

Mr. Railsback shared the lectern with colleague Toby Moffett (D-Conn.), an



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