

CURTIS

## Curtis Finds Movie Salary 'Fantastic'

Hollywood, Aug. 26 (AP)—His one-time buddies in Brooklyn will be interested to learn that Bernie Schwartz is now pulling down 1,750 clams a week in the movie mills.

Bernie is better known as Tony Curtis to the film followers. And no one is more amazed at his ponderous paycheck than he.

"Yeah, they picked up my option," rhapsodized Tony, a fellow with vast enthusiasm. "Isn't it fantastic? I wake up at night and pinch myself to see if I'm still dreaming. Think of it—\$1,750 a week! I never knew there was so much money."

"I feel so great about the whole thing that I want to express myself about it. The kids screaming at you. The nice things you can buy. I want to write a poem about it or put it to music. But I can't. Nobody can understand exactly how it feels except me."

Tony's enthusiasm is refreshing after the blase beauties and ho-hum Harrys who take their blessings with a fawn. He is one new star who counts his blessings, and with good reason. Son of a tailor, he received plenty of knocks from life. And his was no rapid ascent to fame.

"I started here six years ago at \$75 a week," he said, referring to his studio, U-I. "My take home pay was around \$44. The reason was that I didn't have the dough to join the Screen Actors guild. So the studio put up the initiation fee, then took it out of my paycheck each week."

"After the first six months, they bumped me to \$100. I still had hardly enough to live on, after I sent some home to the folks. I bought a car on time, because I couldn't go on bumming rides. Then I couldn't keep up the payments. I pleaded with the dealer to advance the money so I could keep the car. But he wouldn't do it; they took the car away."

Despite his plight, Tony never demanded a raise.

"I didn't go in and pound anybody's desk," he recalled. "I didn't think I had a right to. They were paying me what I was worth to them."

"That's the nice thing about studios. They'll pay you what you're worth. If you go out and make a picture that brings in two million dollars, they'll give you a salary accordingly."

And with that, the boy named Schwartz went out to his new Cadillac, patted it gently, kissed the hood and drove off.

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