

David Cassidy is a kid who, at 23, has just about everything including the sense to know what he's lacking.

Explaining why he's going to walk away from his starring role in "The Partridge Family" and all that's gone with it, the star treatment on sound stage and off; the enormous, guaranteed income;

the applause, and a guaranteed showcase, David says:

"I've lost all my hunger. I've kept myself on such a rigid schedule that I've deprived myself of things I've needed. I need to grow emotionally.

"For the last five years, I've almost been in a vacuum. I've been shut off from friendship. I haven't had a chance to meet women. Oh, sure, I see girls walking down the street, but I don't go to school or lead the kind of life that would let me meet them under normal conditions.

"I've got to have a chance to let relationships grow.

"I feel like I've missed something important."

David's seen other teen-age idols lose their moments of glory and find them irretrievable, and he knows the same thing could happen to him.

But the knowledge isn't frightening.

"My time may not roll around again," he says. "But I've had my share of applause.