

ABC cancels 'Marcus Welby,' 'Rookies,' seven other series

NEW YORK (AP) — by, who helped the ill on TV. Kindly old Dr. Marcus Welby for seven seasons, has canceled his series, along with eight others. The federal notices came Wednesday, as ABC became the first of the three net-

evening program lineup for 1976-77 after enjoying one of its best seasons in the ratings this year. It said it was putting new series in its fall lineup

— four situation comedies, two variety shows, an all-woman private eye show, a Man or Family, two dra-

matic mini-series that premiered this year, for a full season. It said a decision on which will return next fall is pending.

In addition to canceling "Marcus Welby," M.D., ABC said it also was dropping "The Rookies" after four seasons on the force. Also out are "Harry O," its second season, "S.W.A.T.," which began in February 1974, and three mid-season replacement series, "Superstar," "Almost Anything Goes" and "Good Heavens."

Two familiar faces from past hit shows on ABC will be returning next season — Robert Stack and Tony Dan-

iel. "Kate McShane" and low ratings for "McNaughton's Daughter." ABC will try again with a new female attorney series called "Feather and Fath-

Handall, the prissy half of the old "Odd Couple" series, is returning in "The Tony Randall Show," a situation comedy in which he plays a Philadelphia judge constantly harassed by the antics of his family.

Another sitcom costar getting her own ABC series is Nancy Walker, who plays the mother of the title character in CBS' "Hilda." Next fall, the stars in "The Nancy Walker Show," can-

As the complete schedule of new and returning shows for next fall on top eight situation comedies, five police or private eye shows, three variety shows, movies on Sunday and Friday nights, pro football on Monday nights, two action-adventure shows, one dramatic show and one lady lawyer series.

The network put only one show now in the air into a new time period for next fall, although more changes may be made after CBS and NBC announce their fall schedules this week and the

ABC's "Starky and Hitch," new aired on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. EST, will move next fall to Saturdays at 8 p.m. EST.

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