

would, "Well, it's not my problem," but, as we mentioned before, he is a creative actor with a tremendous pride in his profession. Thus, when Producer Basil Dearden sought out Dirk and asked him to play the part of a homosexual in a movie called "Victim," Dirk felt that here was a real challenge; one he could not ignore even though it might ruin his career as a popular actor. On the other hand, it might establish him as a truly fine artist, lifting him above dependency on fan clubs.

Dirk made his big decision—to play the role, which is that of a lawyer, married but with homosexual leanings, who is victimized by blackmailers. He sacrifices his career and his married life to track them down.

Of his decision and its possible effect on his popularity, Dirk says, "I've no intention of being tied for the rest of my life to the roles my fans would like me to play."

In risking his career, Dirk was, of course, also motivated by the fact that "Victim" is not a cheap, sensation-seeking thriller. The authors, the husband-and-wife team of John McCormick and Janet Green, wrote a penetrating, careful study of the problem of homosexuality. The film poses such problems as:

1) Is homosexuality a crime or

a sickness? 2) Is a blackmailer morally a murderer if a victim commits suicide? 3) Should the present law, which makes all homosexuals potential victims of blackmailers, be changed?

Dirk's gamble has paid off. He gives a striking and subtle performance which establishes him forever as an actor of rare talent. He will no longer have to worry about being type-caste as a pretty-boy hero. ●



Homos loiter in city parks, make advances to innocent, unsuspecting youngsters.



In real life Dirk likes girls, especially sultry types such as Ava Gardner.

Dirk doesn't intend to forsake light roles now that he's set in "heavies."