

IT'S NO CRIME TO SING ABOUT HUMAN EMOTION

ROLF HARRIS has started to worry . . . a rather unusual occupation for a man with the No. 1 hit record that closed the Sixties and started the Seventies, not to mention another TV series on the way and just about all the work he can handle.

So what's it all about — this brow-furrowing from a man who's more often associated with laughs than a long face?

According to Rolf: "I never used to worry. But strangely it's all the success with 'Two Little Boys' at No. 1 that's thrown me, and stopped me just howling along without too much agony.

"What's happened is that people keep coming up and saying 'Hey, what about the follow-up?' or 'Hey, what about an LP . . . you should have an LP out by now,' — and it's all started to build up on me. I used to get up in the morning without a care in the world . . . now I wake up worrying that maybe

By ALAN SMITH

they're right.

"We have got a few things ready to record, though, and as soon as the pressure eases off a bit, I'll try and get them down. There are songs I've done in my TV series during the year that've had a good reaction, and I've also got a few things I got in Australia at the time of 'Two Little Boys.'

says chart topper ROLF HARRIS

"One of the very frightening things in my life at the moment is the fact that whereas I used to be able to sit down and write songs of my own — like 'The Me Kangaroo Down Sport' — these days they're very few and far between.

"It's frightening because now and again you get to realise that a part of the ability to create in your life is just being lost in the rush. I'll have to try and ease up again soon, and sit down and try and get my songwriting going again.

the charts, and it's almost certainly about some form of human emotion. There's no crime in that."

Being genuine, says Rolf, is the key to everything. For instance, he appreciates success in America, but he finds it difficult to work on U.S. TV under the de-humanised circumstances that now prevail there.

"It's incredible," he says. "Nobody entertains the audience on American TV these days. The people just sit there and they're just a by-product, conditioned to laugh and applaud whenever it's right for the script. And then, of course, they can always fill-in with canned laughter.

"The whole thing is the terrifying result of the over-use of video-tape and idiot boards. When I was last over in America, I tried to work to the audience, build them up in my usual way, and I caused panics and shock among the production people. It seems it's just not done any more. Never mind the audience . . . if something goes wrong, just stop and do it again. The rubber-necks will laugh anyway. It's very sad."

Fascinating

"I'm certainly not short of songs, either for an LP or for selection as a single! This is because since 'Two Little Boys' did so well, I've had loads of oldies coming in from all kinds of people. Some of 'em are really fascinating, like the one about a little girl who dies and her daddy pictures her ghost. But I don't think I'd use that . . . it was quite nice, but well, you know . . . just a bit too much, a bit overdone.

"I know some people knock 'Two Little Boys' and call it schmaltz, but I really don't agree. To me, schmaltz would be something with sickening over-emotionalism about a cute little baby or something. This is just a straightforward, unashamedly emotional story about genuine feelings and it fits naturally into a story line.

"Name me any other record in

Busy year

1970's going to be, as usual, a busy year for Rolf. At the end of the month he's off to Australia and New Zealand for another tour, taking with him his wife and five-year-old daughter Bindi, and then he might have a further Andy Williams' TV in the States and more dates back here before yet another BBC-TV series next September.

And more hit records? My own opinion is that Rolf is now so well established as a full-time entertainer, hit discs are more of a happy extra for him than a sheer necessity.

"They're nice, though," he grins. "A big record kind of helps you along. It's like re-fuelling once in a while."

