

The tragedy of a lethal harvest

TV

CHOICE

AN intriguing drama **Bitter Harvest** shows what happens when a dairy farm is plagued by a mysterious disease. Written by Richard Friedenberg and based on a real-life incident in the US, a gutsy young farmer (Ron Howard) finds the condition of his herd's top breeding cow deteriorating and his baby develops frightening symptoms.

A cow gives birth to a sick calf but in a superb demonstration of bureaucratic disinformation, a post mortem reveals only malnutrition. Then a baby's illness is dismissed by a doctor with a "don't worry". Some people are puzzled, others are just obstructive until the farmer carries out an autopsy on some dead rats revealing that his cattle feed contains a lethal poison.

His frantic efforts to save his herd, his baby and his farm are defeated by slack

Bitter Harvest: 9, 8.30pm
High and Dry: 7, 11.30pm

Times and programs may vary

bureaucrats and government officials. Eventually he is faced with a terrible choice as he battles to stop his farm's milk contaminating more people and the poison spreading through the food chain.

In its epilogue, this great commercial for alternative farming methods and a not so great one for milk, actually identifies the toxic chemical which an estimated eight million men, women and children now carry in their bodies. A sad statement on government representatives' cynicism towards those they are supposed to protect.

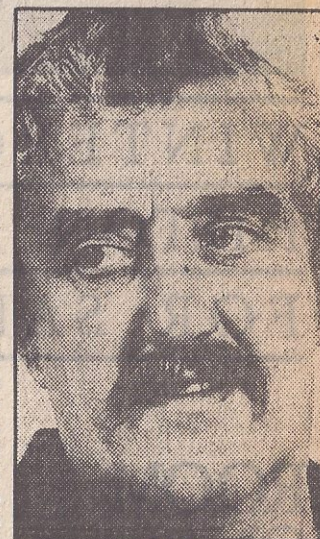
As if we didn't know. It also stars Art

Carney, Tarah Nutter, Richard Dysart.

For the brighter side of bribery and corruption, train your catholic tube on **High and Dry**. A series written by Alan Sherwood and Michael Knowles, it's a load of British funny stuff, cosy laughter and canned cackles and centres on a derelict seaside resort pier in search of a restorer.

This turns up in the form of the very common Ronald Archer (Bernard Cribbins) and his car-sick son. But there's just one hitch - money. Undeterred, Ron approaches the local bank manager, a balding ladies' man, who hasn't looked back since he took backdoor bribes from the local building society, something no one knows about except Ronald - who happens to be his brother-in-law.

— BERWYN LEWIS



Bernard Cribbins ready for some funny stuff