

ity takes over



children apparently remained unruffled, the snake's cameo appearance disturbed some Romper Room viewers.

Linda said she received a phone call from a woman who said her daughter was highly upset by the snake.

"She said she had never seen her daughter so scared and that she was never going to watch the show again," Linda recounted.

The unusual thing was, the woman was calling for her 26-year-old married daughter. "You'd be amazed," Linda said of viewer comments. "People sit there and picky, picky, picky. We have to be very careful about what we say and do."

One caller complained about a Romper Room segment where Linda and the children acted out the fairy tale of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Giant problems

The irate caller accused Linda of unfairly portraying the giant, claiming it was insulting to people with thyroid problems. The woman also complained that by showing Jack sneaking into the giant's castle, children were being encouraged to break and enter.

'The ultimate (naughty word) surfaced last Tuesday. We were rhyming 'truck''

Conflicts over sex roles are treated carefully on Romper Room. "If it's a feminine role, I always stress daddy first," Linda said. She said she is careful not to stereotype any roles or occupations.

Romper Room exercises are approved by the President's Council on Physical Fitness. All formats for the syndicated show are tested at headquarters in Baltimore, Md. before being distributed to local stations, Linda said.

Although the daily shows must follow the prescribed format, Linda has a chance to inject her own personal touch through special feature segments and public appearances.

Frequent visits

Miss Linda and Mr. Do-Bee, Romper Room's giant walking bee, frequently visit zoos, circuses and other public functions certain to be attended by tiny tots. Even the older crowd is not left off their list of special visits, Linda said, noting that a lot of nursing homes turn in to the 10 a.m. show.

Between visits, Mr. Do-Bee (UNL junior Becky Sherwood behind the yellow and black costume) rests in the ladies' room at the studio.

It's a toss-up between Mr. Do-Bee and Doc (a hand-held pupper designed after a doctor at the Sloan Cancer Institute in New York) for Miss Linda's favorite Romper room character.

However, Miss Linda's—and Linda Phipps'—all-time Romper Room favorites are not cleverly designed puppets from the land of make-believe. They're the knee-high, wide-eyed children who five days a week toddle around the studio set to the lilting strains of Mr. Music.

