

*"The best in the world," said Don.*

*"The hotel we stayed at in LA, that's known as the groupie hotel," said Nod. "They all sit around waiting in the foyer, waiting for the groups to arrive. They know the whole schedule...the flight, the itinerary. They know who they're gonna pull. It's ridiculous, they know everything. When we were in Chicago two nights ago...you wouldn't believe it. Home movie cameras and all!"*

*"I woke up in the morning and there were these two birds," said Jimmy in his inimitable way, "and one of them came into my bedroom and pulled the sheets off me and screamed, 'Hey, he's in the nude! Let's get him!'"*

*Earlier in the day Polydor held a press conference for Slade. The interest in the music was minimal but Noddy aptly described the questions – and answers.*

*"They asked us nothing about the band or the music – only sex, groupies, drugs, what cream we used on our haemorrhoids. That's all they asked us, nothing else.*

*"I don't think they're interested in the music, not seriously or anything. They even asked us about politics! They were into everything – everything but the music. It was great though, it was a great laugh.*

Slade went on to talk at length about plans for forthcoming American tours, but as for their or their managers' obsession with "breaking America" – it would never happen. In America they were perceived as part of the UK Glam Rock movement, and Glam would never dominate mainstream pop in the States like it did in Britain. Slade would have stood a much better chance in the States without their Glam threads. Purely on the music they were sensational: at the Academy gig, J.Geils sounded feeble following them.

There were plenty of old friends and acquaintances from the UK working, visiting, or just bumming around in Manhattan and this was especially pleasing when funds ran out, which was frequently. My first Record Mirror mentor Ian Dove was now editing Billboard in New