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'Executive Suite' Packs Lots of Punch

By WILLIAM HOGAN

M-G-M Producer John Houseman, so successful with last year's "The Bad and the Beautiful," has come up with another top-drawer popular entertainment in "Executive Suite." At Loew's Warfield, it is based on Cameron Hawley's novel of high echelon tensions in big business.

Essentially the story is a struggle for power among five assorted vice presidents and a key stockholder of a "one-man company" immediately after the sudden death of its dominating president.

The intrigues, financial ruthlessness, prejudices and clashing emotions during this struggle for power among key men in a complex enterprise are woven into a suspense story of considerable power.

It is made more so by the performances of a cast headed by 10 "marquee names," the weight of which has rarely been seen since M-G-M's extravagant era of "Grand Hotel" and "Dinner at Eight."

All come through with impressive performances, even Shelley Winters, in what amounts to a bit part as the secretary-mistress of one bidder for occupancy of the executive suite.

While the movie might have been cluttered with an overdose of key characters, Director Robert Wise has presented his situations crisply, almost as separate stories that interweave as deals and double-deals are brought off.

Yet, to keep it straight, an audience must see "Executive Suite" from the beginning.

The climax of this managerial struggle finds grappling for power narrowed to two men—the opportunistic comptroller, flawlessly played by Fredric March, and the firm's brilliant,



'Executive Suite' Battle

Barbara Stanwyck and William Holden look as though they engage in a knock-down, drag-out in this scene from "Executive Suite," which will open tomorrow at Loew's

Warfield. Holden plays a vice president of a corporation gunning for the presidency in this all-star movie of big business. Miss Stanwyck plays a major stockholder.

idealistic designer, William Holden.

Each has a case for taking over; each has a strike or two against him, in the eyes of his colleagues.

With this situation, plus the private lives and loves incidental to the chief struggle, the moviemakers had a field day. Audiences probably will, too, in this glossiest, most brittle movie to appear at least since "The Bad and the Beautiful."

June Allyson plays a frus-

trated executive's wife; Barbara Stanwyck plays a neurotic key stockholder in the concern at crisis; Nina Foch is excellent as an all-knowing executive secretary. Bidding for power, aside from March and Holden, are assorted giants played by Louis Calhern, Paul Douglas, Walter Pidgeon and Dean Jagger.

"Executive Suite" looks like a success all down the line.