

ON THE AIR 11

From Glassboro to Dallas

a Special Sunday

By BERNIE HARRISON
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On the average, the schedule-makers do pretty well with their advance spotting of TV specials to titillate the viewing schedule on a routine summer Sunday. Not last Sunday.

There was National Educational Television, with its involvement in the "Our World" telecast, CBS with part one of its inquiry into the Warren Report, and channel 5 with its 90-minute report on a life-saving open heart operation ("Miracle in OR 5.") Then came the summit at Glassboro, Premier Kosygin's news conference at the United Nations, King Hussein's arrival, and attendant news interviews and coverage. Surely that has to go down as one of the busiest, ragged-running challenging days in the history of broadcasting.

Happily, the viewers have a second chance at that NET special (tonight 9 o'clock, WETA-26) thanks to tape. The program opened with a sequence of infants being born minutes before the cameras were turned on for the show in hospitals from Japan to Denmark, and while it can't be as exciting as it was, "live," Sunday afternoon, it should still carry considerable impact.

Soviet and Eastern European countries withdrew from the program early last week and moderator Paul Niven properly noted the "irony in the contrast between the Communist nonparticipation in today's program and today's summit meeting." One view showed the scene at Glassboro as the crowds waited outside the house where the meeting was taking place.

The program, by the way, met with a mixed reception. The critic for London's Daily Mirror, for example, called it a "great occasion." TV, he wrote, was "being used, at last, in an adult twentieth century manner." The Guardian's viewer dubbed the program, "Philistines of the

world unite," and said they were "hell-bent on showing us just how good they were at live pictures in focus. The content of the pictures did not appear to matter."

Superlative Job

An appraisal of the CBS News inquiry into the Warren Report should, properly, await the conclusion of the four-part series Wednesday night. Last night, Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather and their CBS colleagues began an examination of the conspiracy theory.

From a technical point of view, I thought CBS did a superlative job Sunday in organizing and presenting the results of its investigations into that part of the report dealing with Lee Harvey Oswald and the scene in and around the Dallas book depository. The CBS inquiry backed the Warren Report, turning up one new piece of "evidence" that suggested that perhaps a shot was fired earlier at the President's car than was first thought. The tip for this came from a physicist examining the pictures made at the scene and run in Life Magazine and newspapers. Cronkite also corrected, at one point, the misconception that the Warren Report flatly denied a conspiracy theory. It simply found no evidence to sustain it, he said.

I did not tune in the program Sunday with any particular zest—surely, this is one of the most overplayed stories of the day, everywhere—but I did find the treatment, which reinforced the oral word with clear, concise written recapitulations in the form of questions and answers, very easy to understand and

follow. The demonstrations and visual material were crisply handled. Only one part of the inquiry, a speed test by the photographic expert of cameras similar to the one used in Dallas that noon by the amateur, lost me.

CBS also established a sort of justification for devoting so much time to its inquiry by quoting a Lou Harris survey which showed that the majority of Americans have reservations about the Warren Report. There are two points about that worth considering. One, how many Americans have read the Report carefully and in its entirety (excluding the 26 volumes of the hearings themselves), and two, wouldn't a majority of Americans have reservations about the validity of surveys in general?

- Mohr
- Walters
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

Handwritten notes:
Burdick
Lester
J.P.M.

- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) 814
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- World Journal Tribune (New York) _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date JUN 27 1967

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