

TELEVISION REVIEW

THE WARREN REPORT (Part Two)

(Mon., 10-11 p.m., CBS-TV)

In its report on "The Warren Report," CBS on Sunday night concluded "beyond a reasonable doubt" that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President Kennedy. During the second part of the four-hour exploration on Monday night, it decided he was the sole assassin. To anyone who saw these programs, considerable doubt might be raised, but not to CBS News, which appears far more certain than did the Warren Commission.

While CBS made a key issue Sunday night of the now-familiar Zapruder film of the assassination, to prove the assassin had more time than the Warren group stated, it did not ask Zapruder about this, but had "experts" conjecture as to what made the lenser jump while filming. Yet, Monday night Zapruder was interviewed on a relatively unimportant point. Why wasn't he asked about the principal issue made so much of on the opener?

There were also some strange contradictions in testimony previously given the Warren Commission. Opening night, a cop said he was mistaken when he first identified the murder weapon as a German Mauser. Monday night, Texas Gov. John Connolly, who previously had strongly objected to the Commission that JFK and he were hit by the same bullet, now conceded it might have been so; Dr. Malcolm Perry, who previously had said JFK suffered a frontal wound, reversed his earlier declaration. Incidentally, the governor's wife stated two shots hit JFK, and one her husband.

While Walter Cronkite blandly excused Dr. Perry's conflicting testimony by saying he was "badgered" by the press immediately after attending the President into giving a description of JFK's wound, closer examination of this point appears essential. Logic would seem to dictate that Dr. Perry, who had just tried to save a dying President in 1963, would have had a far better recollection of his wound at that time than he would in 1967. CBS did not mention that there were tapes taken of that 1963 press conference, which have mysteriously disappeared. Mark Lane, one of the

chief critics of the report, has said that when he asked CBS for the tapes which he wanted to buy, he was told they had been destroyed. Although Dr. Perry Monday night explained his principal concern on Nov. 23, 1963, was to try to save the President, his conflicting testimony will remain unconvincing to many. Why didn't he say this to the press in 1963, instead of having a seemingly straightforward reply then?

But probably the principal defect of CBS News' special to date has been its failure to have a single critic on the first two hours, although it's reported they will be on later. Special would have far more interest and more electricity, if when a point was made by CBS News, a w.k. critic such as a Lane were there at the time to either agree with or refute it. This lack

of time for the other smacks of a slanted approach, particularly since on the first two hours, CBS has gone way out of its way to buttress the Warren Report.

They had one eyewitness who said he saw gunshots come from a wooded knoll, not the depository, but whenever dissenters such as this one did appear, their judgment was overruled by CBS. Web agreed that there was disagreement by experts and others on certain points, but universally followed the Warren line, usually backing their verdict with their own set of experts.

CBS mentioned that pix and X-rays of JFK had been turned over to the national archives, not to be made public for five years. They did not mention the government has stashed away a great amount of evidence for far longer than that. Perhaps they will later on. But it would seem an extremely important point, to ask why the government has chosen to keep from the people documents which concern them greatly. Surely, no national security is involved here. And what excuse is there to keep such important evidence secreted? These are the questions CBS should be asking, instead of applying the Scotch tape. *Daku.*