

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### THE WARREN REPORT

(Part Three)

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

Now that CBS News has aired three of four hours on the Warren Report, one can ask, was this tv trip really necessary? For at the three-quarter mark, CBS has failed to come up with anything substantially new, and in fact has perhaps raised more questions than it has answered. Summed up, first three hours has seen the web not only completely approve conclusions of the Warren Report, but seek to rebut critics questioning aspects of it.

Tuesday night, they got into one of the most controversial points—D.A. Jim Garrison's investigation, in which he charges there was a conspiracy to kill JFK. He has arrested Clay Shaw as one of the alleged conspirators, and his trial is pending. Walter Cronkite correctly said that since the Shaw case has yet to be tried, CBS could not go into the evidence or reach any conclusions. However, soon after, he stated that on the basis of evidence now in hand, CBS finds no "convincing indication of such a conspiracy."

This is a not-so-roundabout way of saying Garrison's case against Shaw has no substance. NBC last week "acquitted" Shaw in its special on the Garrison probe, and now CBS has done the same thing. Now that Garrison has lost his case on both NBC and CBS, he has no recourse but to pursue it in court. Usually networks are timid about editorializing, but in this case they can't wait and have handed in the verdict. Why? This is dangerous, unethical trespassing on the judicial process.

It's a cop-out for Cronkite and CBS to claim that they came to their conclusion because there is a question of what Garrison will produce in that New Orleans courtroom. Garrison's charges may fall on their legal faces and be

tossed out of court. Overriding point is that a network does not have the right to judge a court case before millions of viewers, thus possibly prejudicing those who may eventually sit on that jury.

CBS interviewed William Gurchich, Garrison's chief aide, who resigned this week and charged the D.A. with using illegal and unethical methods. He next appears before the Grand Jury to repeat his allegations, so—like the Shaw case—this is still an unfinished chapter in the drama.

Garrison, asked why he didn't turn his info over to the federal government, replied "that would be one approach. Or I could take my files and take them up on Mississippi River Bridge and throw them in the river. It'd be about the same result." D.A. told of a New York Times report his office offered an ounce of heroin and three months vacation to a witness, and commented deadpan, "As a matter of fact, this is part of our incentive program for convicts. We also have six weeks in the Bahamas. We give them some LSD to get there."

Cronkite said there is mystery as to how the Dallas cops got a description on the air of a man such as Oswald 15 minutes after the assassination. He added the Warren group has admitted the source of the description and speed at which it was sent out could only be guessed at. Why didn't the Commission and CBS ask the Dallas police where they got the description? This is but one of many troubling questions CBS failed to answer.

CBS News also mentioned Alvin Beauboeuf, who charged he had been offered a \$3,000 bribe by Garrison's office. They further stated N.O. police investigated this charge, and reported Garrison's men had been falsely accused. NBC had Beauboeuf on its "expose" last week airing his charge, but did not mention Garrison's men had been exonerated.

CBS Newsman Dan Rather said he believed the Warren Report, but was not content with findings on Oswald's possible connection with government agencies, particularly the CIA.

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