

THE WARREN REPORT*(Sun.-thru-Wed., 10-11 p.m., CBS-TV)*

This unprecedented four-hour tv investigation of an investigation—the Warren Report—is inspired by the continued doubts and even suspicions of the findings of the Warren Commission, appointed by President Johnson to determine the facts in the assassination of President Kennedy.

It's a formidable task CBS News has undertaken. While comment can only be made here on the first of four hours on this subject, the opener indicates the purpose is not only to vindicate the Warren Commission, but to add new, so-called "evidence" filling up holes currently targets of its many critics.

Each night a different aspect of the controversy is to be scanned. Opening night the issue was: did Lee Harvey Oswald shoot the President? CBS replied unequivocally that he did, and proceeded to provide detailed "expertise" to prove its case.

Judging from the first show, this program could also be called "The Warren Commission Fights Back," because it was a point-by-point reply to the critics. Presumably, the Commission is entitled to equal time, although there are those who will question that CBS News can match the resources of the FBI, Secret Service and CIA, all of whom have covered this

ground extensively, and have provided detailed reports to the Commission. In this sense, CBS News had adopted a rather arrogant stand. This is not to say findings of the Commission shouldn't be questioned, but the network's absolute "findings" may not result in unanimity of agreement, nor do they really hold up in several instances.

For example, much time was spent explaining how a film of

Highly Rated

First of these four consecutive telecasts of the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of President Kennedy posted one of the highest ratings for a documentary airing at the tail end of primetime.

ARB overnight national gave it a marker of 18.4 with 39% share of audience.

the assassination, taken by Abraham Zapruder, served as the basis for figuring out how much time it took the assassin to slay JFK. Via its own "experts," CBS decided the killer had more time than was reported by the Commission, judging from the actual film.

They figured that something happened to Zapruder so that he jumped a bit while filming. That "something," they concluded, was the first shot by the killer, so he had more time than the Commission believed. This is a key point in the investigation, a critical one.

Instead of assuming via experts that the cameraman "jumped" because he heard a shot fired, why didn't they interview Zapruder and ask him? Life mag owns the film, but it's doubtful that it also owns Zapruder. Yet on this "evidence," CBS seeks to plug up one of the points most frequently criticized in the reports.

They also had a number of marksmen make tests, showing they could hit a moving target in the same time the killer did, with the same type gun. Here again are fallacies. One, these marksmen used by CBS were experts called on to do a job for the tv cameras. Hardly the same set of circumstances applying to someone out to kill a President. As so, what about Oswald's ability with a rifle, if he was the killer? He was regarded as a poor shot while in

the Marines, but no info was given as to how good or bad a shot he was on the fateful November day. Someone, such as his wife, should know if he had improved.

A Dallas officer who found the murder weapon and identified it as a German Mauser—not the Italian rifle Oswald owned—was on, to state that at the time he thought it was German, but that he was mistaken.

In the opening round of its four-hour documentary, CBS has not changed anything substantially. Defenders of the Commission will praise this probe, while critics will continue to hammer at the report. There are key questions still un-

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answered, and perhaps CBS will do better its next three times out.

New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison has said it was not Oswald, but a group of anti-Castro Cubans who killed JFK. CBS, it's presumed, will delve into this phase of the controversy in subsequent programs.

For all the painstaking work which obviously went into Chapter One, the CBS News special had some crucial faults. When they made a big point of the importance of the Zapruder film, they should have had the man on, or at least explained if he refused to appear. CBS acknowledges certain "minor discrepancies" in the Warren report, but its efforts to remedy these were not successful.

Walter Cronkite was narrator of the special produced by Leslie Midgley. *Daku.*

WANTED
EDDIE KERN
LEAD ROLE
 (UNANNOUNCED)
 OF COMING FILM
 OF TV SERIES
THE ACTOR
Eddie Kern
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