

Dear S.

I thought this would be of passing interest.
Your letter to the Wash. Post was excellent, as
always. Nothing new here. Much love, M.

P.S. Marine Corp. acquitted
very important, in est-ces pas

14

Television Review

DAILEY VARIETY DAILEY

Fri, June 30, 1967

THE WARREN REPORT (Part Four)

(Wed, 10-11 p.m., CBS-TV)
CBS News, which endorsed the findings of the Warren Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy for the first three hours of this special, ended its mara-thon by sharply criticizing certain practices of the Commission, then reiterating its wholehearted support. This is a paradoxical position. For it is these very investi-gative practices that evoked the criticism which laid the foundation for the widespread doubt and sus-picion of the findings, yet CBS overcomes even its own criticisms with far greater mental gymnastics than can much of the American people.

Probably the main fault with this unprecedented longte was exactly that—its length. CBS failed to bring up much in the way of so-called "new" evidence, and if this was destined to be the season for pro-Warren, anti-Jim Garrison spee, they should have confined it to an hour or at most two. Most perplexing issue was raised by the networks—why did they feel such spee necessary? What was aired both on CBS and NBC was prim-icipally a rehash of known ma-terial, and a parade of witnesses supporting the report, with many accusing Garrison of everything but the assassination. By no yard-stick can either network's spee be called objective reporting, and therein lie their principal defects.

Walter Cronkite summed up the CBS longte by saying the Warren report is the easiest to believe while sorrowfully concluding, "We have found that there has been a loss of morale, a loss of confidence among the American people to-ward their own government and the men who serve them, and that is perhaps more wounding than the assassination itself." Regret-fully, this is true, but Cronkite could have gone into the reason for this unhappy state of affairs. Why should a people who formerly had utmost confidence in their gov-ernment officials now harbor such distrust?

It could be that the suspicions were created to a great extent by government officials, themselves when they arbitrarily decided to conceal from the people evidence in the Kennedy assassination for many years. This is not the action expected from a government in a free society. CBS should not have glossed over this point.

And it could also be because the roles of the FBI, Secret Service and CIA—all governmental agen-cies—in this entire tragic affair, and the association, if any, of the FBI and CIA with Lee Harvey Os-wald are open to considerable question. A free people never doubts government when it feels there has been a leveling and air-ing of all the facts, but there is considerable sentiment that much has been kept from the people in this situation.

As Cronkite pointed out, a Gal-lup Poll shows six of every 10 Americans distrust the report, and by a large margin more people buy copies of books attacking the re-port than those who bought the report. John McCloy, one of the Warren commissioners who was on to defend the report, remarked that perhaps "there's a general distrust of government and government agencies." If there is, only Wash-ington is to blame.

Cronkite's most damning criti-cism of the report came when he concluded that the Commission "se-riously compromised itself by al-lowing the Secret Service, the FBI and the CIA to investigate ques-tions involving their own actions."

Edward Jay Epstein, who wrote "Inquest," which dealt with Com-mission methods, said when the Warrenites heard of rumors con-necting Oswald with the FBI, they had the FBI investigate them-selves, and clear themselves. Yet the name, phone, address and in-terview number of an FBI agent in Dallas was in Oswald's notebook.

Similarly, the CIA cleared itself of a tie with Oswald, a curious in-vestigative procedure, yet the Commission thus concluded Oswald had no relationship whatsoever with any agency of the govern-ment. Cronkite pointed out the Commission was empowered to conduct its own independent inves-tigation, yet allowed the FBI and CIA to investigate themselves "and so cast a permanent shadow on the answer."

Again, more questions were raised than were answered. A femme said she saw not one, but two killers, yet she was never called by the Commission, nor did it investigate her story. Pix and X-rays of JFK's body might set-tle the entire question of conspir-acy, yet not one member of the Commission ever sought these doc-uments, pointed out Mark Lane.

Carelessness and indifference by the FBI and Secret Service to a key piece of evidence at Parkland Memorial Hospital was reported by its own security officer. McCloy said if he had it to do again, he would have insisted on seeing the JFK X-rays and the documents.

Commission was overly sensitive about the Kennedy family's feel-ings.

Arlen Specter, a Warren investi-gator, defended the report's con-clusions strongly, as did McCloy. Oswald's mother reiterated her be-lief that her son was linked with U.S. intelligence agencies, and Cronkite conceded she may not be wrong, adding this was not a "fiv-ious question."

Henry Steele Commager opined there is a "conspiracy psychology" among people today, a view shared by Eric Sevareid, who said there are still people who think Hitler is alive. Sevareid, as did McCloy, defended the integrity of members of the Commission, it is not their integrity, but their wis-dom, which is being ques-tioned.

Daku.