

TV WEEKEND

By JOHN J. O'CONNOR

One of the week's more provocative offerings is being presented on an independent station, WOR, Channel 9, tomorrow at 6:30 P.M. It is a 90-minute documentary called "The Assassination of President Kennedy: What Do We Know Now That We Didn't Know Then?" It is described by the producers—Witness Productions and Syndicast Services, in conjunction with the BBC—as "the first objective, comprehensive examination of the facts contained in documents declassified through the Freedom of Information Act."

The theories, not to mention the extraordinary cast of characters, now surrounding the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy have settled into an aspect of speculation. The possibilities are staggering, including everything from Cubans, the Soviet Union and the Mafia to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Jimmy Hoffa. Books continue to be published with still another "definitive view," but conclusive evidence for all of the possibilities remains elusive.

This television report, with Anthony Summers as producer, is openly skeptical about the officially endorsed theory of Lee Harvey Oswald as lone assassin. The Warren Commission is criticized for acting to squelch what it called "dirty rumors," many of which turned out to be true. Former Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky appears to assert that there was some dissension among commission members regarding the "single bullet" theory.

Two current members of Congress—Senator Richard S. Schweiker, Republican of Pennsylvania, and Representative Richardson Preyer, Democrat of North Carolina—charge that the commission received false evidence from the C.I.A. and F.B.I. Jessie Curry, the former Dallas police chief, says: "We don't have any proof that Oswald fired the rifle, and never did."

On top of these and other related statements, the program has the well-known F.B.I. photograph of Oswald holding a rifle—a photo declared a fake by Malcolm Thompson, director of the British Police forensic science laboratory. And it tracks down a curious collection of gunrunners, intelligence agents, gangsters and assorted Cubans, many of whom contribute information that runs counter to Warren Commission findings.

Also included are film clips of President Fidel Castro discussing the assassination in an interview, Jimmy Hoffa commenting on the Kennedys in a 1973 BBC interview and Jack Ruby in some rarely seen footage. Ruby's close ties to both the Mafia and Cuban interests are carefully documented. Then, in the film, he is heard explaining that "everything pertaining to what's happening has never come to the surface . . . the world will never know the true facts of what's occurred."

Despite scattered oversimplifications, the documentary constitutes still another reason why speculation about the Kennedy assassination is not likely

to abate in the foreseeable future. The program was presented on the BBC's "Panorama" series and on many stations in this country in March. WOR elected to wait for a time period more propitious for its ratings. Sponsored by Manufacturers Hanover Trust, the presentation will not be interrupted for commercials.

Later tomorrow evening, at 8 and at 10, ABC tries, without notable success, to bring some comic relief to the schedule. The first offering is "Rich Little's Washington Follies," in which the impressionist and his gallery of impersonations are joined by several ABC personalities: Tom Bosley ("Happy

Days"), Dick Van Patten ("Eight Is Enough"), Robert Guillaume ("Soap") and Suzanne Somers ("Three's Company").

Miss Somers plays Amy Carter giving her first press conference. Mr. Little slips in and out of one impression after another, from Richard M. Nixon to Carol Channing. Six writers are credited with the script. It's still not funny.

At 10, "Alan King's Second Annual Final Warning" also managed to snare Dick Van Patten as a guest, along with John Astin, Nancy Walker and Susan St. James. Mr. King hits home occasionally ("Why is Carter always smiling? Doesn't anybody ever tell him anything?") But the clue to his general uneasiness can be found in how frantic his delivery gets. For most of this hour, the comedian is extremely frantic, delivering the jokes with enough body English to put the entire occasion behind the eight ball.