

The JFK Conspiracy, George Paige, producer;
Daniel Helfgott, writer/producer

4/12/92

I've been hearing vaguely about this two-hour show to be aired in DC on Fox Channel 5, 4/15 at 8 p.m. Of the space the Post's weekly TV guide devotes to "This Week's Pick's" about a third if on this crap the propaganda for which is repeated without any question, as fact and as dependable.

I do not remember ever hearing from either of these men. The show appears to be another of the Oliver Stone spawn. He is on it, with others.

From this review it is apparent that the show has no ~~interest~~ interest in fact and is entirely on unproven conspiracy ~~theories~~ theories.

Three alleged eyewitnesses are to appear on it, Jean Hill, Ed Hoffman and a man who according to Paige "has received death threats" to keep him from appearing. There is nobody of whom this is reasonably so. Apparently he is not unknown so I do not believe that he has been threatened. I wonder if it is Gary Arnold?

Hill, whose stories have changed over the years, supposedly has a book due soon.

Gaeton Fonzi, whose wild views preceded and followed his work as a House assassins committee investigator; Fletcher Prouty, Oliver Stone's "Mr. X;" Cyril Wecht who is quoted as saying that the show came up with "something new" about the medical evidence," which I doubt; and Madeleine Brown, LBJ's alleged former mistress are listed as making appearances.

I doubt that "new" or "evidence" can properly be applied to the description of what is also referred to as "startling," which I believe it can be other than as the reviewer intends.

Stone and his controversy and his movie have created a lively interest in commercializing and exploiting the assassination.

This is true of all the books of which I know and of all the TV shows.

All are worse than crap. As I forecast in first writing Stone, there now is even more confusion among the people.

This is reflected in my mail and phone calls & small minority of which praise me for not theorizing any solution or theory in ^{my} books. But most people reflect being strongly influenced, meaning misled, by all this rap, especially Stone's.

THIS WEEK'S PICKS

THE FIFTH CORNER *Friday at 9 on NBC Right.* In this new hour-long drama series, Alex McArthur is Richard Braun, an amnesiac struggling to cope with his five identities. James Coburn plays the reclusive billionaire Grandwell who heads a sinister corporation that employed Braun as a covert intelligence operative. Kim Delaney co-stars.

THE JFK CONSPIRACY

Wednesday at 8 on 5 and 54

Producer George Paige and producer/writer Daniel Helfgott come to Washington this week to stage a live, two-hour show linking John F. Kennedy's assassination in November 1963 to the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban missile crisis and even the Watergate break-in. Among their guests is an eyewitness to Kennedy's shooting who Paige said has received death threats from anonymous sources trying to stop the person's appearance. Paige also said he'll reveal the name of Deep Throat, the secret informant on whom Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein depended in part as they unraveled the Watergate story. And he said he has uncovered "startling new medical evidence that contradicts the Warren Commission." The evidence — he wouldn't tell what it is — was sent to forensic pathologist Cyril Wecht, also scheduled for the show. "We discovered it somewhere else, and we sent it to him and we asked him to confirm what we believed," said Paige. "He confirmed it." The show, airing from BizNet on H Street NW and hosted by James Earl Jones, will reinforce suspicions that Kennedy's death



involved many. Paige will offer a 900 number to survey "how many really believe it was a conspiracy and who was responsible." Slated to appear, besides Wecht: filmmaker Oliver Stone; Victor Marchetti, former executive assistant to the deputy director of the CIA; former Air Force Col. Fletcher Prouty, who Paige said was charged with military support of the clandestine operations of the CIA; Gaeton Fonzi, investigator for the House Select Committee on assassinations; Madeleine Brown, identified as the mistress of President Johnson, and Jean Hill and Ed Hoffman, eyewitnesses to the assassination.

FRONTLINE *Wednesday at 9 on PBS*

A special two-hour edition, "Betrayal of Democracy," features reporter William Greider's look at the deepening divide between the governed, who seem to be getting the short end of the stick, and the governing. Greider believes "the breakdown of American democracy is centered not in the modern technologies of election campaigns, but in how the government itself actually decides things . . . This show is about popular discontent and why people have been shut out." The documentary, from District filmmaker Sherry Jones, covers a range of government programs from clean air to worker safety and documents their failures. It also finds that many citizens no longer view elections as tools for change.

HOMEFRONT *Wednesday at 10 on ABC*

On the season finale, Anne Metcalf (Wendy Phillips), mother of three grown children,

marries her Jewish beau, union organizer Al Kahn, father of her future child. Her parish priest, Father Dreher, presides. The wedding is to be a quiet one, with only one concern: Will her son Hank attend? Metcalf hardly looks old enough to be the mother of three grown children, but Phillips, 40, thinks she may be the most interesting character on the post-World War II show. "One of my big gripes, in television especially, is that they portray mothers as only having interest in their children," she said. "They don't explore their sexual life and political life. I have a lot of interests. My child [Virginia Dare, 8] is an important thing in my life but not the only thing in my life. One thing I am grateful for is that [the producers] have created a romantic storyline for me. In 1945, that might have caused controversy. There are all kinds of issues to address. Anne is not a June Cleaver. She's growing more than some of the other characters are. This is one of those times where she has to re-question all the values she has lived with all her life. Some of them will be kept and some of them will go by the wayside. We'll see what happens." Brooklyn-born Phillips grew up at her grandparents' house in Atlanta while her father, blacklisted actor Wendell K. Phillips, struggled to get work. Although her mother, Jean Shelton, taught acting in San Francisco, Wendy, insecure about the trade, enrolled at Cal-Berkeley and did her junior year at the London School of Economics. But now, she said, "I can't imagine being in any other milieu." She co-starred in "The Robert

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