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INSIDE TV / BY PETER JOHNSON

Joe Kennedy calls airing JFK photos 'outrageous'

Rep. Joe Kennedy, D-Mass., Tuesday criticized NBC Nightly News for showing autopsy photographs of his uncle, President John F. Kennedy, on Monday's broadcast.

The photographs, public records that have aired before on a variety of shows dealing with Kennedy's assassination, also were shown in the movie JFK.

The Kennedy family has repeatedly urged that the autopsy photographs remain private. NBC aired the photographs during a piece previewing Tuesday's report by the American Medical Association. That report found the president was killed by two bullets fired from above and behind by a lone gunman using a high-powered rifle.

Showing the photos drew hardly any viewer reaction: Only four people called to complain, NBC said.

But speaking from the House floor Tuesday, Kennedy said he wanted the nation to know "how outrageous an act I feel that was, how harmful I hope the American people feel that was. how harmful I hope the American people feel that was. This does nothing to further the cause of the investigation into President Kennedy's murder." Steve Friedman, Nightly's executive producer, had no comment. (JFK findings, 1A).



BRIEFLY: Same (Scott Bakula) leaps into the body of Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald at the end of tonight's Quantum Leap. The season-ender marks the first time Leap has leapt into an actual historical event.... Steve Bell, former ABC News correspondent, starts teaching broadcasting this fall at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. . . . Jay Leno tells 50% more political jokes each night than Johnny Carson does on NBC's The Tonight Show, but both usually aim at the same targets: George Bush and Dan Quayle. A study by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Media and Public Affairs predicts Leno's monologues will be more political, but not more partisan after Carson's retirement Friday. ... Finally, if Vice President Dan Quayle found the subject matter of Murphy Brown - single motherhood - offensive (story, 1A), there's no telling what he thought of CNN's Sonya Live Tuesday: a 30-minute discussion on oral sex.

Also reporting: Brian Donlon in New York; Jefferson Graham in Los Angeles