IETY DAILY Wed., June 28, 1967

TELEVISION REVIEW

THE WARREN REPORT
(Part Two)
(Mon., 10-11 p.m., CBS-TV)

In its report on "The Warren Report," CBS on Sunday night concluded "beyond a reasonable doubt" that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President Kennedy. During the second part of the four-hour exploration on Monday night, it decided he was the sole assassin. To anyone who saw these programs, considerable doubt might be raised, but not to CBS News, which appears far more certain than did the Warren Commission.

While CBS made a key issue Sunday night of the now-familiar Zapruder film of the assassination, to prove the assassin had more time than the Warren group stated, it did not ask Zapruder about this, but had "experts" conjecture as to what made the lenser jump while filming. Yet, Monday night Zapruder was interviewed on a relatively unimportant point. Why wasn't he asked about the principal issue made so much of on the opener?

There were also some strange contradictions in testimony previously given the Warren Commission. Opening night, a cop said he was mistaken when he first identified the murder weapon as a German Mauser. Monday night, Texas Gov. John Connolly, who previously had strongly objected to the Commission that JFK and he were hit by the same bullet, now conceded it might have been so; Dr. Malcolm Perry, who previously had said JFK suffered a frontal wound, reversed his earlier declaration. Incidentally, the governor's wife stated two shots hit JFK, and one her husband.

While Walter Cronkite blandly excused Dr. Perry's conflicting testimony by saying he was "badgered" by the press immediately after attending the President into giving a description of JFK's wound, closer examination of this point appears essential. Logic would seem to dictate that Dr. Perry, who had just tried to save a dying President in 1963, would have had a far better recollection of his wound at that time than he would in 1967. CBS did not mention that there were tapes taken of that 1963 press conference, which have mysteriously disappeared. Mark Lane, one of the chief critics of the report, has said that when he asked CBS for the tapes which he wanted to buy, he was told they had been destroyed. Although Dr. Perry Monday night explained his principal concern on Nov. 23, 1963, was to try to save the President, his conflicting testimony will remain unconvincing to many. Why didn't he say this to the press in 1963, instead of having a seemingly straightforward reply then?

But probably the principal defect of CBS News' special to date has been its failure to have a single critic on the first two hours, although it's reported they will be on later. Special would have far more interest and more electricity, if when a point was made by CBS News, a w.k. critic such as a Lane were there at the time to either agree with or refute it. This lack of time for the other smacks of a slanted approach, particularly since on the first two hours, CBS has gone way out of its way to buttress the Warren Report.

They had one eyewitness who said he saw gunshots come from a wooded knoll, not the depository, but whenever dissenters such as this one did appear, their judgment was overruled by CBS. Web agreed that there was disagreement by experts and others on certain points, but universally followed the Warren line, usually backing their verdict with their own set of experts.

CBS mentioned that pix and X-rays of JFK had been turned over to the national archives, not to be made public for five years. They did not mention the government has stashed away a great amount of evidence for far longer than that. Perhaps they will later on. But it would seem an extremely important point, to ask why the government has chosen to keep from the people documents which concern them greatly. Surely, no national security is involved here. And what excuse is there to keep such important evidence secreted? These are the questions CBS should be asking, instead of applying the Scotch tape. *Daku.*

VARIETY DAILY Thurs., June 29, 1967

TELEVISION REVIEW

THE WARREN REPORT
(Part Three)
(Tues., 10-11 p.m., CBS-TV)

Now that CBS News has aired three of four hours on the Warren Report, one can ask, was this tv trip really necessary? For at the three-quarter mark, CBS has failed to come up with anything substantially new, and in fact has perhaps raised more questions than it has answered. Summed up, first three hours has seen the web not only completely approve conclusions of the Warren Report, but seek to rebut critics questioning aspects of it.

Tuesday night, they got into one of the most controversial points —D.A. Jim Garrison's investigation, in which he charges there was a conspiracy to kill JFK. He has arrested Clay Shaw as one of the alleged conspirators, and his trial is pending. Walter Cronkite correctly said that since the Shaw case has yet to be tried, CBS could not go into the evidence or reach any conclusions. However, soon after, he stated that on the basis of evidence now in hand, CBS finds no "convincing indication of such a conspiracy."

This is a not-so-roundabout way of saying Garrison's case against Shaw has no substance. NBC last week "acquitted" Shaw in its special on the Garrison probe, and now CBS has done the same thing. Now that Garrison has lost his case on both NBC and CBS, he has no recourse but to pursue it in court. Usually networks are timid about editorializing, but in this case they can't wait and have handed in the verdict. Why? This is dangerous, unethical trespassing on the judicial process.

It's a cop-out for Cronkite and CBS to claim that they came to their conclusion because there is a question of what Garrison will produce in that New Orleans courtroom. Garrison's charges may fall on their legal faces and be tossed out of court. Overriding point is that a network does not have the right to judge a court case before millions of viewers, thus possibly prejudicing those who may eventually sit on that jury.

CBS interviewed William Gurvich, Garrison's chief aide, who resigned this week and charged the D.A. with using illegal and unethical methods. He next appears before the Grand Jury to repeat his allegations, so—like the Shaw case—this is still an unfinished chapter in the drama.

Garrison, asked why he didn't turn his info over to the federal government, replied "that would be one approach. Or I could take my files and take them up on Mississippi River Bridge and throw them in the river. It'd be about the same result." D.A. told of a New York Times report his office offered an ounce of heroin and three months vacation to a witness, and commented deadpan, "As a matter of fact, this is part of our incentive program for convicts. We also have six weeks in the Bahamas. We give them some LSD to get there."

Cronkite said there is mystery as to how the Dallas cops got a description on the air of a man such as Oswald 15 minutes after the assassination. He added the Warren group has admitted the source of the description and speed at which it was sent out could only be guessed at. Why didn't the Commission and CBS ask the Dallas police where they got the description? This is but one of many troubling questions CBS failed to answer.

CBS News also mentioned Alvin Beauboeuf, who charged he had been offered a $3,000 bribe by Garrison's office. They further stated N.O. police investigated this charge, and reported Garrison's men had been falsely accused. NBC had Beauboeuf on its "expose" last week airing his charge, but did not mention Garrison's men had been exonerated.

CBS Newsman Dan Rather said he believed the Warren Report, but was not content with findings on Oswald's possible connection with government agencies, particularly the CIA. *Daku.*