

CBS: Its "specials" and connections

HW 1/11/76

Other records will disclose my source, the best possible, for what follows.

John J. McCloy's ~~daughter~~ daughter was Richard Salant's secretary at the time of the 1967 specials. She remained with him as his secretary for several years thereafter.

She then wen to work of an oil company, as I recall Mobil.

Through her the scripts of all the 1967 shows was presented to him in advance for his approval. (As I remember it he was also on it.)

Aside from the authentic horror this represents of the "free" press, consider its potential in a civil suit.

Some people in CBS who are not in sympathy with what CBS has aired - and even the professionalism was criticized internally by professionals - believe Rather is a better man than the current shows present him as being.

Their explanation, with which I have some problems, is that Rather was seriously overloaded with work at the time of the new shows. Aside from his weekend news and his new role on 60 minutes he had several special jobs, other shows and parts of them.

My trouble with this is his claimed personal investigations that coincide. If he did go off and investigate himself, which I doubt, he could and should have used this time to know what he would be presenting. CBS has other people for what is essentially legwork. I have an interview in which he claimed to be an investigator of parts of the new shows.

In addition, he is, as I read him, much too shaprt not to have detected the flaws in the copy he read, if he had no more to do with it. He has to have read all the copy in advance.

He simply can't not know the dirtiness of the limited questioning of Weston.

I think more but this is enough.