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Portfolio

- Amusements
- Features
 Comics

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TV TONIGHT

'The Assassins' Is Now 4 Hours

By Ann Cline
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Because of increased skepticism on the part of the American public in the Warren Report version of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and because of new evidence of the possible connections of Lee Harvey Oswald with the CIA and the FBI, the CBS television network has changed plans for its presentation of a special on assassinations.

First scheduled as a two hour special titled, "The Assassins," the CBS Reports Inquiry has been extended to four hours and has been changed to "The American Assassins." The original two hours were to cover the assassinations of President Kennedy, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the attempt on the life of Gov. George C. Wallace.

But new information unearthed in research by a CBS team of investagators and the numerous old questions being answered with new explanations about John Kennedy's death have resulted in expanding the time devoted to the tragedy in Dallas.

ANCHORED by CBS correspondent Dan Rather, tonight's one-hour broadcast of Part I (WTOP-9 at 10) will question whether Oswald was the assassin, and if so, was he alone? And did a single bullet strike Kennedy and Texas Gov. John Connally? And was it possible for a person firing from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository to be so accurate in such a short period of time?

CBS News has been given exclusive rights by the Abraham Zapruder family to show the original Zapruder film of the assassination. It will be the first time it has been shown on network television. And with the assistance of a film analysis organization, Itek Corp., a unique frame by frame, split-second analysis will show the details of the shooting of the two men. Extensive study of the photographs have revealed other possibilities that will be explored.

CBS commissioned a poll to find out how the American public felt about the assassinations and the investigations. The results showed that 46 percent of those questioned did not believe the official version.

TOMORROW, on Part II (same channel, same time), the role of the CIA and the FBI and their relationships with Oswald will be examined, as will Oswald's life.

Leslie Midgley is executive producer of the CBS Reports Inquiry and Midgley and Bernard Birnbaum are the producers of Parts I and II. The remaining two parts will be broadcast on dates to be announced.