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The Trend in TV Fare

An FBI official once told me that, "the greatest crime problem in the U.S. is the revolutionary activities of students and professors". You would never know this to watch television's "The FBI" each week, where Efrem Zimbalist Jr., battles noncontroversial kidnapers and bank robbers in noncontroversial settings, always without loosening his necktie or unbuttoning his suit coat. Zimbalist's TV program is said to have the personal approval of J. Edgar Hoover.

Now, to add to this travesty, we have the talentless David Jannsen in a new television series, "O'Hara, United States Treasury", again portraying a government agent fighting crime in a noncontroversial situation—the script once again approved by the government agency concerned. (Jannsen comes to this series fresh from his pro-U.S. Army role in the movie "The Green Berets").

It is easy to see the trend in television fare. By next season, no doubt, we shall have John Wayne starring in a new series, "CIA Conquers All". Or we might have a new program called "State Department Security Officer". The possibilities are limitless.

Why should government agencies be permitted to toot their own horns on self-serving television programs which are supposedly offered as "entertainment"? How many of my tax dollars are paid to U.S. government employees who advise the producers of these vapid programs? If there is truly a "fairness doctrine" on television, when will equal time be provided for programs critical of the FBI?

I am weary of Mr. Zimbalist, thank you, and after only one showing of "O'Hara" I am embarrassed for Mr. Jannsen. Let's have some good entertainment in television, not more of this lukewarm bilge.

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