

5th LBJ's Assassination Remark Deleted

The Columbia Broadcasting System says it deleted material from an interview with Lyndon B. Johnson in which the former president reportedly expressed doubts that only one man was responsible for the assassination of his predecessor.

The interview was conducted by Walter Cronkite, a CBS newsman, and a network film crew at Johnson's Texas ranch last fall. The film has been edited for presentation on three hour-long shows, the last of which is scheduled to be broadcast at 7:30 p.m. this Saturday.

The subject of the final program is the assassination of

President John F. Kennedy.

According to Richard S. Salant, president of CBS News, it includes the following statement at the opening of the show:

"Certain material has been deleted from this broadcast at President Johnson's request, made on the grounds of national security."

Salant refused, however, to confirm that the deletion involved Johnson's reported remark that he was not fully satisfied with the theory—which the Warren Commission backed—that a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, was solely re-

sponsible for the Kennedy's slaying in 1963.

"We've just got to take a position of not saying anything," Salant said this morning. "If we say we've made a deletion on the grounds of national security, we can't then discuss it in public."

Other sources, however, said the deletion involved Johnson's reply to a question from Cronkite about whether the ex-president was satisfied with the "single-assassin, single-bullet" theory of Kennedy's death propounded by the official investigating commission headed by

former Chief Justice Earl Warren.

According to those sources, Johnson answered Cronkite's question by saying: "No, I've never been satisfied with it."

Johnson's request that the exchange be removed from the program before it was broadcast reportedly provoked an internal dispute at CBS, both because of the former president's invocation of "national security" as the grounds for the deletion and because the request was not made until last month, long after the interview itself was conducted and the program edited.