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TV TONIGHT

A Special Night For Specials

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Part two of the "King" mini series comes up tonight (WRC-4 at 9) and you will note that ABC has been countering the NBC series with specials of its own, "How the West Was Won" (last night), and at the same time (tonight) another visit with Jackie Gleason's "Honeymooners" (WJLA-7 at 9), followed by a "Love Boat" episode with a Valentine Day's theme.

And NBC, aware of the rivalry, adds another special by Bob Hope, whose shows (good, bad or indifferent) invariably ring the Nielsen bell. That's at 8 (WRC-4), leading in to "King." Here's the way our previewers rate them:

The Bob Hope Show (WRC-4 at 8): Don't look for tightly written skits or production values — not from the annual Palm Springs charity ball, scene of the show — but Hope blossoms before large groups. There are songs-by golfer Andy Williams while Hope bestows his seal of approval on new star Johnny Travolta — putting on a wig to kid his disco king's performance in "Saturday Night Fever," with Raquel Welch. Phyllis Diller and Flip Wilson also show up.

"King," Part Two (WRC-4 at 9). The height of King's career is dramatized, beginning with the Birmingham desegregation campaign and ending with his receipt of the 1965 Nobel Peace Prize. Actors playing President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy add to the impact, also newsreel footage of Bull Connor turning the water hoses on black children. The "merits of unmerited suffering" sustain the civil rights leader. Factual divergence: in actuality, the march on Washington had already taken place when four girls were killed in the Birmingham church bombing in September, 1963.