

TV: 'Back to Budapest' Looks at Revolt's Aftermath

Contradictions Shown on N.B.C. Program

By JACK GOULD

THE 10th anniversary of the Hungarian revolution was observed last night in a documentary that recorded changes in life in Budapest since the ill-fated uprising of the Freedom Fighters. The National Broadcasting Company's hour listed some of the concessions by the Hungarian Premier, Janos Kadar, to make Communism more palatable and also the revolution's demands that continue to go unheeded.

Frank Bourgholtzer, who covered the revolution and returned to prepare the documentary, "Back to Budapest" and Gerald Green, the producer, presented their review in quiet, understated terms. Their main concern was to touch upon the highlights of industrial, agricultural and political developments of the st decade.

They succeeded in sketching the outlines of the transition from a violent reaction brought on by political oppression to today's subdued restlessness for a better life. The camera of Josef Oexle and the reporting of Mr. Bourgholtzer portrayed the contradiction of the institution of limited incentives for the managerial class and the lack of suitably proportionate economic rewards for initiative.

There were scenes of agricultural workers doubling on the state collective farm and private plots that produce personal profit. A measure of liberty for the artistic community and the continuance of censorship were similarly apposed.

What was clearly suggested might have been more developed was some comment on whether Premier Kadar contains his policy

of limited appeasement or whether giving in to the materialistic yearnings of the Hungarians will take him further away from Communist dogma. Mr. Bourgholtzer advanced the thought that the present-day revolution in the individual's economic thinking might be more serious because it is not likely to be susceptible to resolution by calling in foreign troops.

"Back to Budapest" is to be commended for resisting the visual temptation to rerun the newsreels of the uprising except for one quick introductory reminder. But the program failed to offer an answer to the central thought of the anniversary: Did the Freedom Fighters die in vain? The social forces set in motion, however slowly, suggest that they did not.

'A Minority Report'

Saturday night's three-hour program called "A Minority Report" on the Warren Commission's findings on the assassination of President Kennedy was a very awkward seige of television. It was seen on WNEW-TV (Channel 5).

Four relentlessly intense critics of the report—Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment"; Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report"; Penn Jones, author of "Forget My Grief," and Leo Sauvage, author of "The Oswald Affair"—outnumbered and assuredly outtalked two supporters of the Warren Commission, Jacob Cohen, historian, and Jim Bishop, moderator.

The effect of the unbalanced panel was a predominantly one-sided presentation of the controversy over the Warren Commission's document. This creates a difficult situation, in which the criticism of the report is more vividly registered with the viewer than the original commission findings.

WNEW-TV promised that

there would be a majority program, at a date unspecified, which would be a majority report in support of the Warren Commission. Since Saturday night's marathon was recorded months ago, it is odd that the station does not yet have its rounded summary ready.

This journalistic oversight is especially to be regretted because the layman cannot retain a mountain of complex detail over a period of days or weeks. The challenges and the answers to points at issue in the Warren Commission Report should be presented side by side on the air so that a viewer has at least a fighting chance to understand the

Warren Commission's Foes Get 3 Hours

conflict. Pitting four aggressive attackers against one subdued defender—Mr. Bishop intervened only very sparingly—was stacking the deck rather crudely.

Some weeks ago, the lawyer Louis Nizer, appearing on the Barry Gray WMCA radio show, showed how an articulate supporter of the Warren Report can materially counterbalance the criticism. The likes of him are needed on the air in the interest of viewers' information and education.