

Poignant moments, controversy in JFK specials

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The words became caught in Walter Cronkite's throat and tears welled in his eyes. The always steady and unflappable CBS anchorman had just received official confirmation from Dallas: President Kennedy's wounds had proven fatal.

That rare show of emotion from the veteran journalist is one of the countless poignant moments recalled in "Four Days in November," a two-hour CBS Reports at 9 p.m. EST today.

As the 25th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination approaches, television turns the calendar back to Nov. 22, 1963 with a number of

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network and cable shows, some of which look back with fondness, others that review the events with a skeptical eye. (See accompanying box)

The most original and innovative arrives Saturday on *Arts & Entertainment*. "Reasonable Doubt" is an all-new documentary that attempts to disprove the Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

Focusing on the single-bullet theory, filmmaker Chip Selby, who used the film as his master's thesis at the University of Maryland, presents interviews with forensics and

ballistic experts, some of whom have studied the assassination during the last quarter-century.

All of Selby's interviewees insist there is "no way" the same bullet that struck Kennedy in the throat also wounded Texas Gov. Connally. Offered as evidence — the Zapruder film is examined and timed frame by frame, and Exhibit 399, the supposed bullet that did all the damage.

The argument is persuasive, but Selby fails to offer members of the Warren Commission the chance to respond.

Tonight's CBS Reports presents the events of that long weekend just as they happened — from the first, almost unspeakable reports

that shots were fired at the Kennedy motorcade and, indeed, that the president was wounded, to the mournful funeral cortege that solemnly wound its way through the nation's capitol four days later.

Dan Rather, who first gained national attention as a CBS correspondent reporting from Dallas that November, narrates "Four Days," and declares "we can bring back the events, we can't bring back the emotion."

Those who are seeing this footage again 25 years later, however, have enough emotional memories that will come to the surface.