

MORNING REPORT

Arts and entertainment reports from *The Times*, national and international news services and the nation's press.

TELEVISION

News From CNN: CNN will broadcast an exclusive live Christmas Day interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday from 6-6:30 a.m. Moscow Bureau Chief Steve Hurst will conduct the interview at the Russian White House, home of the Russian Parliament where President Yeltsin led the August stand-off against the unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the Soviet government. . . . Meanwhile, CNN on Monday set Jan. 27 for the launch of "Inside Politics '92," a daily newscast devoted to the 1992 presidential campaign. The program will be seen live, Monday through Friday, at 1:30 p.m. with a replay at 10:30 p.m. The anchors will be Bernard Shaw and Catherine Crier.

MOVIES



Porter

'JFK': A Step Forward: Lee Harvey Oswald's widow says in the January issue of *Ladies' Home Journal* that she hopes Oliver Stone's controversial new movie "JFK" will change public opinion about her husband. "The Warren Commission's conclusion [that Oswald was the lone gunman] was deliberately wrong, and I emphasize deliberately," Marina Oswald Porter says. "If this movie answers the question of why that was so, that will be a step forward." She doubts, however, that the movie will inspire any new investigations. "That the public will be informed is the best I can hope for," she says.

Let me urge moviegoers not to pay so much attention to the media controversy over Oliver Stone's movie "JFK." Just go and see it and judge for yourself. I frankly see absolutely nothing wrong with a film that questions America's top dogs, the Warren Commission, the White House, the military industrial complex and the CIA and FBI. These institutions have failed us over and over. To say the least, they have been found wanting in the truth-and-candor department. So while Stone may violate historical fact, as some charge, he is rather like Robin Hood, stealing material from the Establishment to make an important point for the people.

"JFK" is really a great film, though studded with flaws. It doesn't spare us Jim Garrison's tedious domestic life (Sissy Spacek, a typical '50s wife, nagging her dedicated husband, Kevin Costner, who plays Jimmy Stewart and Gary Cooper rolled into one very fictional and mythic messenger).

The movie has terrible dramatic music that overwhelms what people on screen are saying so that about half the time, you miss the name or the point being made. And it reels around, mired in its weird homosexual conspiracy in New Orleans. But much of it is magnificent! The dramatic horror of the Zapruder film, mixed with Stone's re-creations . . . the Parkland Hospital scene where they wrap the President's shattered head and put him in a casket naked . . . the autopsy room at Bethesda Hospital . . . the re-creation of Oswald's leaving the Book Depository and his capture in the Dallas movie house . . . Jack Ruby, again. Incredible! Your heart races. About half the time you don't know what's going on, but I ask you,

do we know what's going on? Did we ever?

Six hundred books on the assassination of John Kennedy and it has taken Oliver Stone to dramatize the reality that there *must* have been a conspiracy, though perhaps not Garrison's idea of one. The House Select Committee simply *must* release all the assembled evidence now, before the year 2029. U.S. Presidents, senators, congressmen and everybody else, it seems, have been derelict in trying to keep the lid on this—America's biggest story of the 20th Century outside of World War II.