


For the first time on television...

A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE WARREN COMMISSION FINDINGS: A MINORITY REPORT

The controversy continues when five argumentative authors of newsmaking books and articles confront each other with challenging questions. Participants: Jacob Cohen, *The Missing Documents*; Penn Jones, *Forgive My Grief*; Mark Lane, *Rush to Judgment*; Leo Sauvage, *The Oswald Affair*; and Harold Weisberg, *Whitewash*. Moderator: Jim Bishop, author of the forthcoming *The Day Kennedy Was Shot*. Host: David Schoenbrun, author and foreign correspondent.

SATURDAY 12 NOV 1966
9:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT
WNEW-TV

A Metromedia Station




NYTimes TV-radio column, Jack Gould, 15 Nov. 1966

Warren Commission's Foes Get 3 Hours

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'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 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.

Advertisement repeated 12 Nov. 1966