

TV: The Warren Report

C.B.S. Begins a Four-Program Inquiry —Appears to Back Original Finding

By JACK GOULD

The Columbia Broadcasting System's news division opened a four-hour inquiry ~~last night~~ into the findings of the Warren Commission report on the assassination of President Kennedy. On the first program the network concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was an assassin and did have ample time to fire the three shots attributed to him.

By reconstruction of the circumstances of the assassination and the conduct of its own experiments the C.B.S. inquiry answered to its satisfaction that Oswald was in the Texas Book Depository, and could have fired the Italian rifle as the Warren Report said he did. It suggested that the arguments of the critics of the report on these particular points did not stand the test of careful scrutiny.

An assessment of the C.B.S. inquiry necessarily will have to await the sub-

sequent installments scheduled for last night, tonight and Wednesday. In the light of the first program's conclusions, suggesting that Oswald may have had more time than the Warren Report thought, C.B.S. implicitly set the stage for continued support of the Warren findings.

It can be argued that, if such a course is taken by the network, C.B.S. will have contributed effectively to answering the many critics of the report. But it would then seem all the more regrettable that in its advance promotion C.B.S. calculatedly sought to capitalize on the controversy to whip up interest in its undertaking. Points of controversy are legitimate subjects for the inquiry itself, but they are less suited to exploitation after the network thinks it has found valid answers worth passing on to its large audience.