

CBS Shelves Play On Vet's Return

New York

The CBS Television network said yesterday it is postponing the scheduled Friday broadcast of "Sticks and Bones," an award-winning Broadway play about the callous reception given an American GI returning home blinded from Vietnam war wounds.

The network's action drew protests from the play's producer, Joseph Papp, and its author, David Rabe. Columbia Broadcasting System spokesmen said the postponement was ordered for two reasons.

One was "that the timing is just awful with all the American prisoners of war coming back from Viet-

nam," a spokesman said.

Another factor, he said, is that at least 69 of the 184 CBS network affiliates who normally take the network's Friday night programs refused to carry it after seeing it on closed-circuit screenings.

Robert C. Wood, the network's president, notified all 206 CBS affiliates yesterday that the two-hour show would be aired at a later time.

Author Rabe, 32, who served in Vietnam in 1966 as an Army clerk-typist, said he accused Wood of bowing to pressure from the government. A CBS spokesman later denied this and said no government pressure ever was involved.

Associated Press