

"?"/%\*MORE ON TV China coverage.  
2/15/72 >/>5? FEB 25 1972  
As happens to you, we both fell  
apart last night. There were two  
things on TV I wanted to see. The  
first was an hour of old, recently-  
located footage of the Mexican  
revolution, the second an hour-long  
NBC China special. I got about 10  
mins. into the Mex and dozed off,  
waking up groggily half-way into  
the China b'cast, then dozed off  
again, awakened intermittently and  
heard announcement that NBC was  
starting China b'casts today at 6,  
an hour early. With this snoozing I  
awakened early, got to the planned  
break of my writing before 6, and  
have time for this special b'cast. It  
was preceded by 20 interesting mins.  
which tend to validate the opinion I  
gave you earlier, that content of  
opinion and approach varies with the  
reporter, not the net or net policy.  
These 20 mins. consisted of reruns of  
yesterday's footage and some stock  
(beautiful) Hangchow pictures taken  
by a recent US traveller, a woman who  
provided commentary. Herb Kaplow  
anchored, with occasional inter-  
ruptions of NY anchor Ed Newman. In  
no case was there a snide remark.  
Example, Kaplow asked the character  
of Chinese society said that his  
impression is of not an oppressed  
but a regimented society. His single  
illustration of "regimentation" is  
being awoken at night, during a  
snow storm, to find large numbers of  
neighborhood people had turned out  
to clean the snow away and made the  
streets safe of passable. That the  
people who live in a neighborhood  
do this is regimentation. I suppose

you were raised in a regimented So.  
society because all the neighbors  
turned out to help each other with  
the harvests, huh? Barbara Walters  
had gone to the Evergreen Commune.  
She appears to have selected her own  
family to interview, mother, father  
and daughter (grown and charming).  
The camera showed and the voice  
described their three-room home,  
their private plot, their three pigs.  
Electricity, outside water, toilet,  
radio, neat furniture. They plan to  
buy sewing machine. Income, etc.  
What may have been without signi-  
ficance is Barbara Walter's choice  
of words in asking questions through  
the interpreter. When she asked of  
the mother the changes in Chinese  
life, she said before and after  
"liberation". The woman was simple  
and eloquent. She started and begged  
before, life is good since and get-  
ting better. There has been the  
usual posing before the special  
banquet while I've been writing this  
I am not aware of the printed-press  
coverage except as I have reflected  
it to you because I've had neither  
time nor faith. But I remain with  
the belief that the TV coverage, for  
all the nastiness of which I've caught  
part, is better than the usual US  
record on such things and had made  
and will continue to make a major  
difference in US if not world atti-  
tudes toward China. H