

2/17-tonight was one of the best on which not to own a TV if one is interested in China. Chancellor, who read fine copy on their special, was photographed decked out like for upper Alaska and with his bare face hanging out concluded his brief pre-explaning speech: "China is the largest unreported story on the planet. We will now report it." Not, presumably, to the 25% of the people of the planet who live there and need not have it reported to them. And Ted White, who I did not know as "an old China hand", was a large part of the Public TV's first of three specials. On that hour it was a secret that the Communists did any fighting against the Japanese. And with one brief and meaningless snatch of film of the Communists coming down a mountain in Manchuria, less than 1/2 minute at the very most, despite all the Chiang footage so obvious in the hour, despite the Japanese film and all sorts taken at Yen-an, there was the brief title superimposed on it is stock footage the sole message of which was that human beings can go down mountains, was the legend, "Unauthenticated Communist Film". Ah the courage of "public" TV! White does not have to say he is omniscient to get the word out. He acts it and was by Robert MacNeil treated as though it is one of the verities of life. He is more than a stuffed shirt. He is stuffed above the shirt, both ways. What will he look for when he is in China? Camels on place I didn't catch his Chinese was very Chinese, I guess dust, and the TV in his hotel room. Why the latter? Of course, to see if the Chinese give the story the play US TV is. And if not, they are very, very bad. He'll also look for a few old friends, to see if they are alive, if they can talk, and what they say (there is little question, if they do not say what he wants them to say they are not free to talk. Manne bet?) Is it dangerous for the Chinese, this meeting with Nixon? Very dangerous because all Chinese think we are the white devils incarnate, and what the hell is the pure Mao doing in the same planet with them? One rather interesting point. He spoke highly of the competence of Mao and Chou. He said the opening at the pingpong table had to be Mao. But the use of the pingpong table was an inimicable typical of Chou. HW