

Censors Say 'Please Delete'

COURIER-JOURNAL
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"Delete orgy," the CBS-TV memorandum ordered.

The "orgy" was in a Sidney Poitier-Richard Widmark film called "The Long Ships" and was one of thousands of movie scenes, sequences, shots and lines of dialogue that are scissored out of motion pictures before the film can be shown on network television, according to dozens of detailed memorandums released to Catholic Press Features by the CBS-TV Department of Program Practices.

The network, which has taken a big early ratings lead with the help of such films as "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "The Apartment" and "North by Northwest" (films have dominated the TV season thus far, with "The Flying Nun" being the only new series to break into the top ten, placing tenth), chose to reveal the extent of cutting that is done on movies "because of the letters of protest and peti-

sex habits of teenagers. The film originally drew an A-3 rating (for adults) from the Catholic film office, but CBS-TV took out the double-entendre and single-entendre dialogue that probably pushed it from A-2 (adolescents and adults) up to A-3.

Sample cut: Cummings asking, "Where have they (meaning teenage boys and girls) all gone?" and Miss Funicello replying, "If you don't know that you must have flunked biology."

Network Sensitivity
One of the things that the networks are most sensitive to is reference to the Deity in any irreverent manner — however slight. In "Young Cassidy," the film based on the life of Sean O'Casey, "please deletes" were given to lines like "Damn my leg" and "To hell with the Irish Constable" and to an outright "God damn it" but the no-bias-phemy dictum even extends to

the Program Practices Department without some cutting, Tankersley said, whether it be with an order to "delete entire scene where German soldier reveals he has been mutilated" (in "Five Branded Women") or an "out" given to Cliff Robertson's "a helluva trip" in "Love Has Many Faces."

But for all the dialogue and scene cuts ordered in such adult theme films as "A Summer Place" (25 cuts) and "Two for the Seesaw" ("delete MacLaine's and Mitchum's reference to living together"), the most startling thing is to discover:

"Brillo mentioned. Out."

"Parliament cigarette box visible on night table. Out."

Those deletions have nothing to do with possible sponsor conflict, Tankersley said, but rather reflect the networks' fear of something else besides irate letters: another Congressional investigation of payola and plugola. — (Catholic Press Features)

New Film Ratings

Following are the titles of films reviewed this week by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures.

- Class A, Section 2
Camelot
Don't Look Back
 - Class A, Section 3
Fearless Vampire Killers
Girl and the General, The
Live for Life
 - Class C—Condemned
The Fear
- Objection: "Concerned with a defective youth's morbid preoccupation with sex, this attempt at tragedy in the old Greek form is offensive to any audience because of its explicit treatment of erotic activities."



Eva Marie Saint and Cary Grant outside her train compartment in "North by Northwest," a risqué film—20 TV cuts ago.

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tions we've been receiving from people who have been reading about all the 'adult' films that are going to be on TV this year," said William Tankersley, CBS-TV's vice president in charge of program practices.

His department, as revealed by the memorandum, clips heavily on sensual scenes and suggestive dialogue, even if they were put in the film for laughs.

For instance, "North by Northwest," the Alfred Hitchcock suspense film starring Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint. In the original version, there is much risqué dialogue and double entendres over Grant's use of Miss Saint's overnight-train compartment while hiding out from the law.

"You're the smartest girl I ever spent the night with on a train," Grant jests to her the next morning. "Please delete," the memorandum on that film responded.

"Please delete" came after 10 other scenes or bits of dialogue that made "North by Northwest" slightly risqué for its time—1959.

29 "Please Deletes"
"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," starring Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman in a Tennessee Williams story about the marital problems of a young couple, had 29 "please deletes" — most of them having to do with the his wife, with only enough left in for the audience to get the message.

Often, it's a matter of taste that is of prime concern to the network censors. In "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," Burl Ives as "Big Daddy," the family patriarch, is allowed to tell the young wife (Elizabeth Taylor): "If I was married to you for three years, you'd have the living proof. You'd have three kids already..." But the rest of the sentence—"and the fourth in the oven"—was ordered deleted.

Visual suggestiveness accounts for most of the major cuts. "In the Viking feast, delete waitress' dress being ripped, shots of lovers in closet and king slapping waitress on derriere," said the memorandum on "The Long Ships."

"Delete necking on beach," was an order for "Beach Party," a Frankie Avalon-Annette Funicello film about a professor (Robert Cummings) who hopes to do a scholarly study on the

such lines as "By God, you must be the most beautiful woman in the world" and even to a Henry Fonda line in "Spencer's Mountain": "swear to almighty God that my boy will have what I never had."

"Spencer's Mountain," set in a farm and country atmosphere, had Fonda using a lot of folksy language loaded with harmless "damns" and "hells" and even a doctor saying "damn tootin'" all or most of which was deleted, along with a number of scenes dealing with farmyard biology. Referring to a Judith Crist review in "TV Guide" recently in which she objected to some of those scenes and lines of dialogue, Mr. Tankersley sighed, "We could have told her we cut them out if she asked us."

Hardly any film gets through

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