

COURIER



This stony-hearted girl at the Sonnenberg estate in Canandaigua directs coy and petulant eyes over her shoulder, expecting Spring to sneak up and surprise her. We hope he will arrive soon. Courier photo by Laurence E. Keefe

As I See It

White House Fingers in the Stew

By PAT COSTA

The news that the White House has branched out in its efforts to influence what emanates from the television screen is ominous.

Heretofore the administration had concerned itself only with attempting to intimidate newscasters. Now talk shows have gotten the word.

In the past week, Dick Cavett, certainly the most articulate and probably the best educated of the talk show hosts, was given the "suggestion" that William Magruder, project manager of the supersonic transport,

should appear on the Cavett show!

The White House charged that Cavett, a man concerned with the nation's ecology, had been partially responsible for the defeat of the SST bill in the House. He had, the administration said, loaded his show with opponents of the SST.

Thus the "suggestion" that Magruder appear before the pending Senate vote. Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., was scheduled to present the opposing view but the White House didn't like that and Proxmire didn't show. (Rochester does

not get the Cavett show; Channel 13 screens a movie in that time slot.)

Now the question is: Who or what show is next?

"Does White House interference in television drama sound too implausible? Maybe, but I would not bet on it. The senator segment of "The Bold Ones" starring Hal Holbrook has come up with some particularly well-written, hard hitting drama this past season, in at least one case mirroring an actual case of national concern (the Kent State tragedy).

It would be a likely spot to start. From there we might expect the whole White House obsession with television to dissolve into the ridiculous. Such as? Such as monitoring the situation comedies for anti-White House sentiment. First to get the business could well be CBS' new hit, "All in the Family." Administration officials behind the Cavett "suggestion" and Archie Bunker sound like brothers under the skin.

Watched the repeat of the Wednesday, March 31, 1971

controversial CBS Reports "Selling of the Pentagon" with much interest and then the criticism by Defense Secretary Melvin Laird and Vice President Spiro Agnew with even greater interest.

But the fellow who grabbed this year the hardest was CBS top executive Richard Salant. It is always easier to be impressed by facts and figures and documentation.

"Jane Eyre," the Bell Telephone Co. special production of

the classic novel was a two-hour treat unequalled this season.

George C. Scott as the tragic Rochester and Susannah York, in the title role of the cool young governess made for superb casting. But the clincher proved to be the setting. Filmed on the Yorkshire moors the adaptation had a quality so perfectly eerie and unsettling as to make one clutch for a non-existent shawl each time the wind blew. A winner from start to finish.

AN INSIDE LOOK

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"I was frightened. I looked around for the Holy Water font to bless myself against the Evil I expected. My entire flesh was covered . . .

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