

AS I SEE IT

We missed a good part of the House Judiciary Committee debates on the articles of impeachment, a fact I sorely regret.

We were away a couple of days and had house guests a couple more and to have turned on the television would have been unseemly no matter how much I enjoyed watching the posturing of the gentlemen from New Jersey, Mr. Sandman, or the dramatics of the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. Hungate.

The few days and nights we did have the set on we got a history lesson like none before. Not only

were the debates by far the best thing to lighten the home screen this summer just as the Watergate Senate Committee was last summer, but to watch the interaction of this committee was this viewer's first opportunity to see our legislators at work, to see the principles of democracy applied.

We have much to thank television for in respect to this kind of programming. Not only did it bring to us in living color what few people around the country have heretofore been privileged to see but by its relentless focus as the various members spoke we were able to zero in on personalities, judge their respective talents, assay their intelligence, their ability to articulate their objectivity. One is quickly inclined to dismiss the argument of the rabid partisans of either side and concentrate instead on those who appear to think through each move, each vote.

By the time it was all over I had come up with three favorites, Barbara Jordan of Texas, Robert McClory of Illinois and William Cohen of Maine each of whom by their relatively quite demeanor, firm conviction and thoughtful arguments seemed to epitomize the ideal American lawmaker.

How fortunate we would be if more of the congressional sessions were made available to us via television.

CBS appears to have struck out in at least two of its three mini-series that have appeared in the old "Sonny and Cher" slot on Wednesday nights. We had a look at one of the "Hudson Brothers" programs and found it almost as appalling as the "Bobbie Gentry Happiness Hour." Poor writing seems to have sunk this latest entry just as it did Miss Gentry's. The only one so far to have made the grade is "Tony Orlando and Dawn" which was bright and sparkling the one night we tuned in.

Business In The Diocese

Robert J. Betterton has been named manager, business area planning, for Xerox Corporation's business development group. He has been manager, operations analysis of the company's information technology group, since 1972. A native of Syracuse, he was graduated from Le Moyne College there and added an MBA in production management from Syracuse University. Betterton is a director of Xerox Management Association, Catholic Family Center, and Junior Achievement of Rochester. He is a former regent of Le Moyne College and was president of that school's national alumni association from 1968 to 1974.

A new jewelry store, Evans and Hartung, Fine Jewelers, Inc. will open this month on the Terrace Level of the Seneca Building quadrant of Midtown Plaza. The shop will specialize in designer jewelry from Europe, and estate and antique jewels.

The shop is the first to be opened by the partnership of Robert L. Evans Sr. and William J. Hartung. Hartung is a parishioner of St. John of Rochester, Fairport.

At Home With the Movies

THE LOOKING GLASS WAR

[1969]

Thursday, Aug. 8

Punk adaptation of John Le Carré's story of Leiser (Christopher Jones), a Polish national who jumps ship in Britain and is promised asylum by a group of British Intelligence agents (Ralph Richardson, Paul Rogers and Robert Urquhart) cynically longing for the good old World War II freewheeling espionage days.

The old-timers want the young man to ascertain whether the Russians are providing East Germany with missiles.

Apart from forcing a generation-gap conflict never intended in the author's original concept, the film takes a series of incidents only barely credible in the novel — Leiser's relations with an English girl, his training as an intelligence agent, his trip on foot through the center of East German installations, his affair (unmotivated plot — or character-wise) with a young German girl (Pia Degermark) — and manages to dispel any interest or suspense that existed in Le Carré's book about the spy who was a victim of his own loyalties.

[A-III]

LIMBO

[1972]

Friday, Aug. 9

This is a masterful tearjerker of a melodrama based on the homeside ordeal of a passle of POW/MIA wives of the Vietnam era. With different pressures (mostly emotional and financial) buffeting them, the wives work out various solutions, some good, some not so good.

Kathleen Nolan is the central character, starring as a wife who treads the straight-and-narrow, but only with great difficulty. Katherine Justice is a wife who prefers to nurse fantasies rather than accept the all-but-certified death of her MIA husband, and Kate Jackson is another distraught (but wealthy) wife who

takes up with a local Romeo, a gas-station attendant.

Despite its obvious melodrama, the film rings true much of the time in its sincere attempt to show the human side of this nagging problem — how do the wives keep the family and their emotional lives intact, especially when they have no certainty about their husbands or the future? Kathleen Nolan's performance in itself is worth your watching.

[A-III]

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

[1969]

Friday, Aug. 9

Nicely maudlin and lachrymose story about a wealthy man whose world is shattered by the imminent death of his young son, because of leukemia.

William Holden plays the father, who is told that his son has about six months to live. The child becomes aware of the situation — and both prepare to make the best of the lad's last few months.

The result is an intensive experience-crammed story as the father helps his son live a "full" life in a short few months. This sort of thing could easily have gotten out of hand, but the firm direction of Terence Young holds things in check. There's a tear or two called for, though.

[A-II]

THE ITALIAN JOB

[1969]

Sunday, Aug. 11

Michael Caine comes alive in this tongue-in-cheek spoof of grand larceny thrillers. Left the plans of a fool-proof heist by a recently deceased master-mind, Caine organizes the job under the aegis of Noel Coward, head of a crime syndicate operating from a London prison.

The plan calls for staging the world's most spectacular traffic jam in Turin, Italy, while a \$4,000,000 shipment of gold is

being transferred from airport to bank. Filmed with the aid of the Fiat motor works, the film climaxes with a maniacal, hair-raising auto-chase through backyards and over roof-tops and ends like an old-fashioned cliff-hanger.

The color, the tempo, and the fine action by the entire cast make up for some loose ends in the plot and on the whole combine to make a generally enjoyable film. Director Peter Collinson has a fine eye for visual satire and shows a deft hand for working in this genre.

[A-II]

THE CARPETBAGGERS

[1964]

Monday, Aug. 12

Suggestive reincarnation of the sensational bestseller novel by Harold Robbins allegedly based on the life and high times of an elusive billionaire whose initials are H.H. All of the tangled plot elements and stupefying clichés of character and situation are held over from the book, as a brash young man (George Peppard) claws his way to the top in business and Hollywood, and pays at least a portion of the wages of sin in the end.

Suggestive dialogue, situations, and costuming in turn suggest a limited and adult audience, although the film has been edited carefully for TV.

But that doesn't eliminate the overall tastelessness. Alan Ladd, Carroll Baker, Elizabeth Ashley co-star.

[B]

BINGO OFFICIAL DIES

Auburn — Charles D. Bohman, 114 Lake Ave., Auburn, passed away July 12 in Auburn. Bohman was Bingo Control Investigator with the Department of State for the 6-county area, including Cayuga and Monroe Counties. A member of Holy Family Men's Club, and Civil Service Employees Association, he is survived by his widow, Marie Meehan Bohman.

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