

ON THE AIRBy BERNIE HARRISON
Star TV Critic*Antenna-Sprouter*

CPYRGHT

"When John (Chancellor) now reads about a seemingly innocent fatal accident involving some key person in a troubled country, he wonders; he's developed antenna." A colleague of Chancellor's made the observation after screening "The Science of Spying," an NBC special which is more accurately an examination of our Central Intelligence Agency and its controversial hot-and-cold war role. I can believe the antenna; I can't get my hat on either.

Try watching the show tonight (10 o'clock, WRC-4); you'll see what we mean.

The timing could hardly be sharper, in view of the Dominican Republic fighting. Producer Ted Yates couldn't make yesterday's screening because he's in Santo Domingo.

It's not that the program has any startling revelations to make; it's simply that it is the best TV illustration of the subject I've seen yet, as exciting as it is disturbing. From the opening shot of Chancellor riding a Russian tank ("you could say, we stole it") there is no letup in interest. The interviews with Allen Dulles, Richard Bissell and Sen. McCarthy — who wants a tighter moral hold against "just what might become a kind of completely immoral or amoral operation" — are revealing. But the excitement of the show is in the interviews in the field (the seemingly contradictory one with a former air attache in Guatemala; the legendary soldier-of-fortune type, Jerry De Larm; the rebel Guatemalan in the hills.)

Chancellor states it well in the conclusion. "The CIA's on active duty in a constant, secret, dirty war . . . The problem we have is how to reconcile the necessity of the CIA with its secret offenses against our public morality. These days, it's getting more and more uncomfortable to be an American, and there doesn't seem to be much we can do about it."

FOIAb3b