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Reporting From The World Of Television and Radio

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Chinese Boomerang

The Chinese Communists recently attempted in Peking to make extensive propaganda use of American newsreels of race rioting in the Watts area of Los Angeles, and of draft-card burnings. The efforts boomeranged.

So say foreign photographers and newsmen who have come from visits behind the Bamboo Curtain lately, according to ABC News producer Tom Wolf. Because Americans aren't permitted to travel in

Red China, Wolf is assembling an hour-long documentary on conditions in the country from foreigners who have gained entry. The ABC program will be shown April 27.

Wolf said he was told that films of the Watts riots were yanked out of circulation by the Chinese propagandists after audiences were found to be most impressed with how well-dressed the rioters were and how many automobiles were seen on the streets.

What interested Chinese audiences most in the draft-card burning films were the cigarette lighters used to ignite the cards, Wolf said. "They oohed and aahed over them!"

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