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Soc. 4.0.14 - Vanished

9 MAR 1971

Television

'Vanished'

By William C. Woods

There's not much doubt that anybody who saw the first half of "Vanished" last night will want to be tuned in for the wrapup.

That comes at 9 tonight on Channel 4 as this special NBC presentation answers all the questions it left us with yesterday.

Is Arnold Greer a homosexual? Is he in China? Does the President know? Does he care? Is the CIA really behind the Spruance Foundation? Is the FBI really behind the CIA? (Is the NSA for real? Will Greer's hard-drinking wife survive the razor slashes? And so on and on and on...

It's not as good as "seven Days in May," not by a long shot. But the movie—which is huge, four-hour, first-time-ever-on-TV, star-

strewn epic of cartoon politics—has its moments. If the characters are caricatures, most of them are clever and engaging. You'll notice some of the on-location Washington settings.

Richard Widmark is properly acid and paranoid as the beleaguered President, F. G. Marshall close to perfect as a Carlyle—quoting CIA chief. And Robert Young right on target as a Sen. Foghorn figure dealing dirty in the background.

The other actors are mostly TV stars, largely indistinguishable from each other, but they fill in the blanks well enough.

Sure, we've seen this movie before. But it never fails to entertain every time it comes around. Part II tonight. Why miss it?