

Bev Deepe
101 Cong Ly
Saigon

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(As CCCBBBSSS and NBC correspondents from Hong Kong are now in Saigon covering developments here, Newsweek Hong Kong forwarded your requested tv cover query).

Bernard ~~Kalix~~ Kalb, CBS correspondent for Southeast Asia and India, pointed the number of defections ~~from~~ of newspaper reporters to television correspondents—examples being Bob Kleiman, formerly of US News and World Report now with CBS; Stan Levy, formerly with New York Times and Now CBS Washington; Bill Lawrence (check spelling) formerly of New York Times and now with CBS. (This Bill Lawrence is ~~me~~ known as "Political" Bill as distinct from "Atomic" Bill Lawrence, the science editor of New York Times.

Bernard Kalb ~~is~~ was also a ~~news~~ New York Times correspondent from 1946 to 1962, reporting in South East Asia, but joined CBS last year.

"I love tele~~x~~ions," television," Kalb said. "I like the medium. You can't match the excitement of turning a camera on a story and picking up a narrative that~~x~~ provides a ~~p~~ framework for the camera."

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"There's a lot of insecurity in ~~ix~~ tv-radio reporting," Kalb said. "We've always had a newspaper trad new newspapering tradition." a lot of announcers simply re-wrote the wire services rather than becoming newscasters. But the fact that we (television) are reaching out for newspeople in stead of matein matinee idols is significant."

He said a lot of newspaper correspondents in New York left newspaper work for television after the newspaper strike.

A tall, dark-headed correspondent, Kalb "followed in the footsteps of his younger brother, Marvin," who is now in CBS also. They jokingly call themselves "The Brothers Kalb."

The television-radio correspondents in South East Asia inherit a bundle of problems in their work. Merle Severn, CBS cameraman for Kalb, carries 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of film with him when he's traveling on a hot story.

"On an active running sotr story, that will last us about two weeks," Severn said. "Ed "We have to carry about 800 pounds of equipment with us whenever we travel--it costs more for excess luggage payments that it does to pay for bringing Kalb and myself in to cover a story." CBS throughout the world must spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on excess luggage payments throughout the world."

Severn said that covering riots and developments in Saigon was one of the toughest assignments he's had in the free world. "The police once took our car, two drivers ~~and~~ at gunpoint and all our equipment for thirty hours. They(Vietnese po Vietnamese police) wanted all our film. So I gave them 2000 feet of unexposed film and 800 feet that they could have exposed in the magazines. Meanwhile, I was shipping the real film out of the country through devious devious ways. The censorship here takes a week for them to development it and approve it." (More)

"These Saigon riots are the hardest," Severn continued. "We had to hide the camera and shoot from the hip. All riots are hard to handle, but here the police and the military & restrictions makes saigon the hardest spot now. I've covered military operations in Viet Nam and have been shot at more than in World War II. But this is harder." (He was a sergeant in the Pacific).

James Robinson, NBC correspondent for South East Asia, agreed that riot stories were hard to cover, but said the Saigon riots "were placid" compared with those he'd covered in the Malayan emergency.

"Riots are the worst," Robinson said. ~~XX~~ "They are the most frightening. You don't know whos who's the good & guys and the bad & guys. The correspondent is always the target. The authorities want to get you for identifying their methods of brutality and the people want to get you because you might identify them to the authorities."

Boyish-looking Robinson has covered six conflicts: Korea, the Indo-china war against the French, Laos fighting, Malayan emergency, the curring V current Viet Nam war and rebellions in Indonesia.

In the summer of 1950, Robinson was publisher and editor of the Bangkok (Thailand) Tribune, an English language paper. He was sent to Korea to cover Thai troops under United Nations Command, and soon joined NBC. He & once was invading the Indonesian Celebes Islands with some rebels who did not know how to navigate their ship; they mutinied and dumped Robinson into a canoe. z

Robinson was expelled from Viet Nam last fall; after six months of negotiations between Vietnamese government and U. S. State Department, he was re-admitted in mid-July this year. During hot sultry day covering Buddhist memorial service, Robinson got sunstroke and fell off six-foot wall.

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He broke his arm, which he still wears swaddled in an orange bandana bandanna.

"I spend fifty percent of my time on logistics," Robinson said. "People in the states and Europe have no idea of how hard it is--getting your equipment in and moved around, fighting for radio circuits etc."

Kalb recalled two-three months ago that CBS equipment was carried on backs of 25 Papuan porters through the interior of New Guinea.

(Kalb and Robinson said publicity departments of their respective stations have shots of them in these difficult settings--like in New Guinea.)

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