

'Skokie' gets mixed review

By DIANE DUBEY
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SPEAKING WITHOUT the self-consciousness of the officials portrayed in the CBS docudrama "Skokie," three village trustees whose roles weren't included in the film gave it mixed reviews nonetheless.

Jackie Gorell characterized the movie, to be aired Tuesday, Nov. 17, as "too long" and "repetitious." Although the film-makers apparently tried to present all viewpoints, she said, someone familiar with Skokie would find the movie "very distracting."

Gorell objected to the portrayal of the people she knows well: "Eli Wallach was too intense (to play) Harvey Schwartz - but who knows that except people who know Harvey Schwartz?"

BUT THE portrayal of Skokie Police Chief Kenneth Chamberlain in the character of the fictional Chief Buchanan annoyed her the most.

"Chief Chamberlain is not the typical hard-nosed, loud-mouth cop," she said. "He's polite and soft-spoken."

Proximity to the leading characters created distractions for the other trustees, also.

Saying the film was "too long and dragged in the middle," Frank McCabe said the problem "comes when you try to combine fact and fiction.

"People who don't know people will say it's fine," he said, calling "Skokie" an "overall fairly accurate representation of the way I remember things happening."

Manly Croft agreed that "certain things don't ring true," but attributed this departure from fact to the fact the film is a docu-drama, not a documentary.

"I GENERALLY thought the movie

was pretty good, particularly in handling the emotional issues concerning the survivors," he said.

Skokie's Corporation Counsel Harvey Schwartz, possibly the only person who didn't assume the village attorney in "Skokie" was supposed to be Harvey Schwartz, said he "didn't inject (his) ego into this.

"It isn't me, the characters don't correlate," he said. "It doesn't portray my relationship with (Mayor) Al Smith or, for that matter, it wasn't even entirely correct on the legal issues Skokie was asserting."