

Jackie Leaves Early; Weather Is to Blame

Mrs. John F. Kennedy helped to inaugurate Philharmonic Hall, but she didn't stay for the final cadence.

She left the hall during the intermission after greeting Leonard Bernstein, conductor of the New York Philharmonic, and Aaron Copland, the composer, in the green room near her seat on the left side of the hall.

It was said that Mrs. Kennedy had received word earlier in the evening that flying weather was expected to worsen in the Newport area.

Because she is scheduled to greet Ayub Khan, president of Pakistan, in Newport today, she could not afford to be stranded in New York.

Center Opening Provides A Spectacular for TV

By Richard K. Doan
TV and Radio Editor

Last night, for two full hours, television delivered the ultimate in one of the forms of entertainment for which video's disparagers are always crying: a generous sampling of great and spectacular music performed by a large assemblage of the country's finest artists.

And all in good old-time evening time.

It should have left nothing to be desired. And indeed it would be grossly unfair to say that it was not a spectacular event. The viewer could easily sense the excitement.

And yet it tended at moments to accent video's limitations. The visual scope of it often seemed too much for the small screen to encompass. The impositions at times

upon TV's typical tiny speakers was enormous.

It was not, of course, a video production. The male performers' and guests' white shirts glowed against their satin lapels. The lighting was often imperfect for TV purposes.

And yet the telecast had video's typical advantages: the cameras' roving eye, the intimate close-ups, the ability to transmit the picture of the new hall's vastness and beauty.

Mr. Bernstein, like the leader of a band, tried to coax remarks from Mrs. Kennedy. He shot questions to her about the music and the concert hall. The First Lady's replies were virtually inaudible. The sound and the fury of opening night and her low-pitched voice were unable to overcome Mr. Bernstein's higher-keyed queries.

Alistair Cooke was TV's polished host. On the whole, Robert Soudak's production of the event for CBS was nely turned out.

Corning Glass, which sponsored the telecast, must be thanked for unusually inter-