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## PANEL IV: A SOCIETAL PERSPECTIVE ON TELEVISION AND VIOLENCE

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## PANEL IV: A SOCIETAL PERSPECTIVE ON TELEVISION AND VIOLENCE

Panel IV will look at some broader societal interests. No one pretends that television or the depiction or portrayal of violence on television is the sole or major contributor to the larger problem of violence in our society. The question is "how important is the effort to deal with television violence?" Some effort has to be made to deal with the question of crime in society. How does the campaign against television violence fit into that? The panelists discussing the issue are:

Professor George Gerbner, the former dean of the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Gerbner has been examining the problem of television violence for thirty years. In the American Psychological Association study on the role of television and violence, there are no less than twelve listings of publications by Professor Gerbner.

Professor Todd Gitlin, is a professor of sociology and the director of the mass communications program at the University of California at Berkeley. He has written six books including one on the television industry, *Inside Primetime*.<sup>1</sup> He has also edited *Watching Television*,<sup>2</sup> another book for Pantheon and has written a number of articles on the subject.<sup>3</sup>

William Abbott, is an attorney in Boston and the president and founder of the National Foundation to Improve Television. The Foundation is a public-interest, nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to reducing harmful portrayals of violence on television and their easy accessibility to children.

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1. TODD GITLIN, *INSIDE PRIMETIME* (1983).

2. *WATCHING TELEVISION* (Todd Gitlin ed. 1987).

3. Todd Gitlin, *Halting TV Violence Won't Stop Violence*, SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, Sept. 6, 1994, at C-2; Todd Gitlin, *Is America Overdosing on Entertainment*, SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, Aug. 23, 1994, at C-2; Todd Gitlin, *To do Something About Violence, Ban Bullets Instead of Images*, SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, Oct. 27, 1993, at A-19.

