Dear Jim, 4/12/74

While awaiting the coming of a neighbor on a horticultural mission, let me acknowledge appreciation of the bulging mailing of 4/9, report that my trip was about as successful as I could hope (about which more later), and address your very logical comments on the phenomon I have observed in the Craig with that one TV only.

On the latter, I have done all the things your suggest trying and I have also used two other TVs in exactly the same location and the same electric plug. The first was an old tiny portable which must use less current but the present one is even older than the Zenith and must use more current. It is a more powerful set that was replaced because it does not fit in the living room (the Zenith fits in a wall space for a TV) and because it lacks UHF.

The one thing of which I can think that I have not tried that I can recall is another transistorized FM set. When I get the Zenith back I'll try that.

You are undoubtedly correct that something natural causes it. But I have reasons for believing the interests in me have not ended. There was reason for suspicion on emplaning and there is no doubt that my motel room in Jacksonville was entered night before last when I left for dinner. I left a careful trap and it was sprung when I returned.

In some ways the suit Lesar and I are now pressing is potentially the most explosive of all if the Supreme Court does not grant cert on the spectro suit.

And there has been, as I think I've indicated, the most persuasive and explicit threats in the Ray matters. I knew of one. There was more of which I didn't learn until yesterday. The impromptu trip of the same day was to deliver the second threat in person. It was to tell someone who is not in general circulation that the one who is to end his problems awaits. If you recall far enough back and if I was sending you carbons in 1971, you should recall that this is a logical and not unexpected development. The code words were Soul on Ice.

Meanwhile, do I not have to assume that it is quite unusual for a TV that did not fail to reduce the picture by a third in size in use here has apparently not once done it once it reached the shop? The set is unreturned. After some delay I was phoned and told that it refused to act up and there was an offer to return it. I said let it play until it does. I have heard nothing since. In all it must be close to a month now.

When I meet with people and engage in discussions it is always in the living room because except outside there just is no other space. My office is too small and too crowded. Except for the lamps, where anything added would show on dusting, or behind electric outlets, should anyone want to hide a device capable to transmitting any distance and with a connection to a source of power, the only invisible place is behind the back cover that all TVs have as a safety measure. The hifi has not cabinet. We have no record player. No ceiling lights. And, of course, perhaps no bugs. The phone is the one exception of which I can think. I understand they can be used easily.

Neighbors have come, made the grand tour, selected our surplus and are digging themselves what I know we don't want (where I have doubts they require Lil's presence), so with them taking Russian Olives (that may not be Russian and don't bear olivers, at least here) and Beauty Bushes and dogwoods, I get to other things.

Willbe enclosing or sending later newest from waif and Whitten.

Best,

9 April 1974

HW:

Yr 4/2/74 memo about your TV-Craig difficulties: I don't feel either persuaded or justified in asking our friends here about this, although that state of mind could change despite the difficulty of acting as middle man in a technical situation I know little about. Too much room for misunderstanding.

In the meantime, I cannot imagine a more unprofitable place for a bug. The only type I've ever heard of that could work in such a situation would be a miniature FM pickup-and-transmitter and these should work better and be much easier to install almost anywhere else than in a TV. In any case, unless some sort of short circuit was involved, I don't see how it could affect the Craig.

From what you say it sounds like you've got the Craig power cord plugged into the same set of outlets as the TV. Since you also say you run the Craig only with the power cord, it is possible that the TV, when first turned on, may exert a surge of demand on the power source that temporarily robs the Craig of enough power to keep it audible. I seem to remember that some tube TV sets came with rather formidable transformers to boost their voltage up to something like 750 volts from the 115 provided by a house circuit. You say that neither the hifi set nor the other TV affects the Craig this way, so maybe your model of Zenith TV has this feature.

I don't know whether it makes any difference whether you are recording on the Craig from the TV via the mike or a patch cord, nor whether this blackout happens while you're playing the radio side of the Craig rather than recording with it, but there could be a factor involved here which might become clearer and might be worth checking out, although I doubt it.

The more I think about this, the more I suspect your TV's warm-up demand may drain the power line momentarily by reducing the voltage that gets through to the Craig (or maybe it would be the amperage, I don't know). In any case you could test this in two ways: 1. With an extension cord, plug the Craig in somehwere elde in the house circuit where you are sure the outlet is on a different leg from where the TV is plugged in, that is, on a leg that goes to a different fuze in your fuze box or to a different throw-switch in your circuit breaker box if you have one. 2. Put the Craig on batteries, still near the TV, and see if you get the fadeout.

I don't see how AFC could have anything to do with this, nor the proximity of the two aerials.

In any case, from what little I know, this is about the last place I'd expect to find a bug of the capacity needed for your location.

jdw