

Dear Jim,

1/2/76

I'll be able to get the CBS show from Baltimore. Lil checked the schedule. And I've completed today's packaging, rather large for the holidays. One of the interesting manifestations is perhaps the highest percentage of reorders on PM. Some come that way initially, for two, one to be autographed. Others write back for added copies. But they are ready for the mailman and there remain a couple of minutes before the show.

My real purpose in writing, lest I get interrupted, is to suggest that you read today's Post's interpretation of what the CBS claim is to no prior meaningful investigation. I've saved it if you missed it. Makes two out of two.

I had not time to pay any attention to news today. All I did with the Times is clip and file that story. I didn't stop for lunch. So, the Angola story was news to me until I caught a word or so on the TV news. (Don't look at that mornings any more, generally.) Reminded me of a couple of people I know who are expert in soldiers of fortune, mercenaries, etc. So, I thought I'd call Mo. It was about 8 p.m.

His boy said he was asleep so I said not to awaken him.

Mo could be sick. He's lost a great amount of weight, about a third.

But I couldn't help thinking maybe it was diplomatic, that he anticipated an angry call and tipped the kid off.

If I didn't like him, despite the ambivalence over some parts of the story where ordinarily he could have used some influence, I'd have dropped him a short note telling him how exhausting using the pitchfork can be, especially for so long, and with chickens the stuff is so wet a scoop is better. That's even watching it can be tiring. But I didn't. And went.

When I talked to you about using the alligator-clip plug I gave you tonight you mentioned something about an improvement. It didn't register. However, if there is nothing wrong with your set (TV) I'd urge you to put the money in a good aerial, a good installation and a rotor for turning it. You may still have trouble with 26, but the chances are you would not with 23, Annapolis, which carries much the same programming. Or 53. You might find that by turning the aerial you could get 26 bouncing off the apartmenthouse across the street. And you should be able to get all the Baltimore VHF stations. On news there is an advantage. You can, in this order, get ABC and NBC from Baltimore and still get CBS from Washington, all beginning 6 p.m.

The address of the authorized Sony service Les Whitten gave me is 1358 Holton Lane, Langley Park 20783 (439-3500).

Best,