

Dear Jim,

1/15/77

Your 1/12 is both helpful and timely. Your Mark is a breed not known to me hereabouts. I have friends who sell equipment, honest, decent people, but they do not service it. There are a few in the area who render decent service but they are busy enough to restrict themselves to what they sell.

While I could drool over the Sony you marked and my own reading indicated is best for my purposes, unless an exceptional item presents itself, like the fantastic Hitachi Jim brought back from the Orient, your initial advice is sound, more so when supported by Mark, and it is what I will do. I'll put that in the better hi-fi and depend on it for most of the taping.

If this committee continues and then broadcasts, neither of which now appears to be at all certain. (I have not copied the very bad press Sprague is getting hometown for you but it is surprisingly adverse and quite reasoned and reasonable.)

I've been partial to Sony since that TV 40 you gave me. What incredible performance! And how much use! I made a mistake with it, sending it for service when the volume control developed an intermittent. It was returned after a \$35 charge entirely ineoperative. The student who was to take it back has not. He has promised to. I did get a 55 out of town in an emergency, when I had not carried a machine expecting one to be available and it has been flawless except for a couple of minor flaws built-in, like the auto shutoff not working. So if I need to make a chance and there is not some exceptional stuff available either Sony tape recorder and that fantastic machine you marked will between them take up less space than the old Zenith I now have on the desk.

Actually I plan other changes that will enable me to monitor and tape more should I want to. We have an old and well-used portable TV in the bedroom. It is one of the first intended for vacation use with an external battery with built-in recharger. Very small picture. My office is off the living room so when Lil wants to take in some of the good BBC stuff presented by public TV she uses this set, which is adequate but has a rather small picture. She sometimes has difficulty tuning it as she selects the public station whose signal is then better. For about \$100 I can get her a good set on which the tuning is not as automatic on UHF as on VHF, I Zenith this old friend of ours sells and services, eliminating the service problem. I'll then put this old little GE next to the radio and be able to tape from both. The TV is actually smaller than the radio. By a fortunate fluke without extra cost when I had the TV mast put in on the roof's urging we have a device that splits the signals and will serve more than the two set we have on it. Meaning, I think, that for the cost of the wiring I can have it connected in my office. And that means that with the automatic volume control on the recorder I can tape from public TV nights at my desk while I work on something else. During the WC hearings this was nightly from DC.

So thanks for the sound advice. I've already arranged for an overhaul of this old but apparently good Zenith radio by my Zenith dealer friend when he is here. He says he can fix it for use with the external aerial that is 40 feet skyward when I had to arrange that to give Lil a good UHF picture. All that she knows it needs is a new volume control and perhaps dust cleaning.

There was another value in that little catalogue. I now know what Sony offers in CB. Not what I need. Need is not the word. Want for any possible emergency. Whatever it is elsewhere here the emergency channel is 9. Sony provides for 7 and 11 only. Twice this morning we had temporary phone outages. If as I now plan I get something like this it is in the hope of never using it. The yakking means nothing to me. There might be a time in the future when I might get a pocket one for when I am walking or mowing so Lil can call me if she wants me or a caller does. This would entail only an inexpensive pocket-size set. By the time I've walked a mile up the mountain I'm in dog country and have to turn back without a weapon to protect myself with. (I've bought some old-fashioned overalls and when the roads are clear I'm going to try walking again. Better than exercising, I think. So many thanks. Best,

12 January 1977

Dear Harold:

Today I finally found Mark in his shop, and he agrees with what for me was a guess that a local solution for your reception problem is likely to be best.

This is particularly true, he thinks, if you plan to use a reel-to-reel 1/4-inch tape recorder with hi-fi equipment such as a tuner with pre-amp and amplifier.

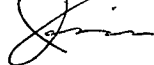
If you want to get a radio with built-in cassette recorder, like the Craig but more selective, he doubts that any is made. He knows of none.

Or if you want to use one of your own cassette recorders with a new and more selective radio receiver, he thinks the Sony ICF-5500W (on page 12 of the enclosed brochure) is probably as good as you're likely to find in the available field of small compatible radios. He thinks it's likely to be as sensitive and selective as any you're likely to find in this class of equipment. It lists here for \$100, without batteries or AC adaptor.

As he was quick to point out, you have to take unneeded extras in order to get a Sony this selective, such as the the CB band and the built-in timer (although both could be useful for other purposes). But it does have one advantage most radios don't have: you can record and listen at the same time. With most of them, when you patch in a recorder you automatically cut off the loudspeaker.

I hope this helps in some small way, such as giving you points of argument in approaching local dealers.

Best from us both,



jdw

Sometime when you've nothing better to do and have a moment, I wish you'd jot down an explanation for Old Receiver Road. There must be one. It certainly defies guesswork.