

Dear Pearl,

7/28/72

We've been having unusual weather. Summer came late and vengefully, with the first hot spell lasting and staying over 90, close to or at 100. So, the grass cutting got ahead of me. I went after it until dark, finishing up, inopportune, as it turned out, near the house and making enough noise for ~~it~~ not to be able to hear. Thus I can give you but an incomplete report of an excellent NBC-TV "Special". ~~It really was a good one, but I don't know what the commentary was about. It was a good one, but I don't know what the commentary was about.~~ on dope.

There was a line that reminded me of you. The sound track was dealing with Thailand. It had already spelled out CIA involvement, the control by our mendicants and the generals, etc. And the unwillingness of local governments to really do anything. With this basis it said that the government is not really against heroin production because it is a means of keeping the tribes friendly. Communists are against the traffic and growing, it said, this bad for the tribes' business, so those in it are pro-government.

I think if you write NBC in New York, they'll give you a transcript. The opening, which I'd couldn't heard, was likely general. The part she heard, which must have been all but 5-10 minutes for I didn't miss much more, made no single suggestion that China was even remotely connected with the traffic. You can be sure that with State and CIA defending themselves and their henchman and ~~the~~ with the media pre-disposition toward anti-Communism, had there been a basis, it would not have been overlooked.

Again, I suggest you have questions in your mind about your source and any hidden motives your source may have had.

Some of the mowing also made me think of you. I had cleared a piece of land during the winter but the trash growth got far ahead of me, some weeds and saplings four feet or more high and no grass. As I was easing my way through it I often wished I had my machete with me. But mine is without a scabbard. Some of the locust saplings were too much to force the mower over, too thick to cut with it if I could. And the mower takes two hands. AND, the machete was too far away, uphill. So, if you can, without great cost, for I can't afford it if it is costly, get me a machete with a scabbard that I can wear at my belt, I'd appreciate it much. They must be ~~in~~ available down there from the crack you made when I almost lopped my thumb off with the one ~~it~~ I have: "It is go Mexican." If Mexicans go around lopping of thumbs with machetes, ergo, Mexican's have machetes. And everybody knows Mexicans are lazy, so they carry their machetes not in their hands but in machetes scabbards.

In the morning I'll measure the one I have in the event a scabbard is available separately. I'm not a two-machete man. I guess that went out with Jesse James, and the two-gunners.

This, by the way, was an exceptional TV night: two really good specials, both NBC's. Back to back. So, I sat for two hours. The second was "Thou Shalt Not Kill", on the death sentence. ^{It} was mostly a KUTV interview with two sadists, both soft-spoken and smiling, who went on a killing spree in Salt Lake City, and smiled as they discussed what they did and their emotions, as best the pills chased with beer let them remember. The point was clear: the death sentence didn't deter these two, and couldn't others like them, sick. It was an exceptional insight into the sick, paranoid, sadistic mind of the self-seen unimportant and worthless who found meaning only in the clippings on their crimes. And a slightly sexist attitude toward killing. They had no regrets at all about 5, but the sixth was a woman, and they seemed less than joyous about killing her. The interviewer said as little as possible, so the two men just kept talking. It is the kind of thing for which the medium is ideally suited. The use of close-ups was effective. I've never seen them used as much on TV. The faces AND the words were the ultimate in self-description and characterization. Words alone, radio or written, couldn't begin to have the effect.

Hope your silence means the grindstone is turning.

Sincerely,