

Dear Jim,

1/28/77

Jerry finally called back on his New Times piece- precisely when Bill put supper on the table. I asked for 10 minutes, told him that would be enough, so he wanted 30 and we were not finished when Gail Beagle phoned him. So, to the accompaniment of the howling blizzard, I wait his callback before I get to other work.

The weather, what others have done for me and today in particular have set me to thinking, in part about the mythologies.

I told you I had electrical trouble with the car and that the battery was not bad. It got worse. The day after I drove it with no trouble at all, or the day after I last took Bill grocery shopping, the car would not start. No light was small enough to turn on. The best shop for this in these parts is on the opposite side of Frederick, the Baltimore side. I phoned. This weather makes problems for them. They told me what to try. I was not able to do it. I told them no emergency, come when they could. Well, we all knew the forecast soon enough. So the ferrenan comes in his own car on his delayed lunch break, makes an examination, gets me started and I follow him in. He is so pressed for time we did 50 in a 30 zone! He then gets an employee to drive me home. But we can make two stops first. (You know they are paid by the hour.)

The employee is a locksmith who has a stop to make about 10% of the way here. It took him 5 minutes. He knows me and I do not know him. How? He is also a gunsmith and it is he who years ago serviced my Mannlicher-Carcano. He remembers. And anyone who believes conservatives are any less troubled than liberals is a party-line liberal.

The printer made a mistake and shipped the reprint of PW to Hagerstown rather than to me VIA a Hagerstown reshipping point. That is a 60 mile round trip. And I'm stuck for it, \$170 just to dump the variations on my property. So I think, who can I call who has a truck and does not want to retire on a single job. I call the guy who for years used to deliver my feed when I farmed. I tell him the weight, the number of crates and the weight of each, and ask him how much will he charge not only to pick them up and bring them here but also to stack them in the basement. He figures two men can do it in a morning and if he can pick his morning this week he'll do it for \$55, maybe but not likely \$50. He calls me at 7 and says he can do it today and he wants to because of the forecast. Only what he did not tell me is that when he became aware of the weather he used TWO trucks, his big truck for hauling and himself and a pickup to be sure, to supervise. He also with a countryman's sense of the weather decides to play it safe. He gets a stout young fellow from a neighbor and instead of two men I have four, one the owner of the business. By 11 they had all the books here and stacked in the basement. He asked me if I'd mind giving him an extra \$50/ for the kid and was I delighted to.

This is a guy close to my years, crippled with arthritis. We have done no business since I left the farm but beginning about 30 years ago he did make regular deliveries to me. We had a business relationship.

I become concerned because the dealer from the next town who is to have brought me a CB with the crystals for the emergency channel has not come so I call a friend who is an engineer with the phone company. He tells me a local man is scrupulously honest, trust him. I call him, he makes a recommendation of a special buy on which he can give me a third off. All I want is one I can hold in hand in an emergency. It turns out to be one that can also be put in a car, which does not interest me, with all these gadgets, and provision for use as a base station, with an aerial connection for this already in. My phone co. friend has urged me to put up an aerial and said he'd come and do it-free. (He knows where we live.)

It makes one feel good and it reminds me with some amusement of the story of Bud's that I cannot get along with conservatives. All these are. One sometimes has doubts about Geldwater's true dedication. When the blizzard hit- and it blew trees over- it was good to have the emergency communication and net to need it and the story of the day and its friends was warning. All these people are sympathetic to the work. Best,