

11/27/72

Dear Ony,

I hope things are going well with you, as they are not with us. Our lawyer has just pulled an incomprehensible stunt: setting the case for trial, after a year of doing nothing to prepare it and avoiding telling me what he wanted me to prepare, without leaving enough time even to begin preparation. I have written him that we do not and will not accept this and I shall have to do more. I will be leaving for Washington after daylight. The trip lasts about an hour, unless road construction slows it.

I spent Friday working there and made appointments for today. This included taking some of my old files to a researcher at EPA. In going over this old file, I saw what might be relevant for you in the future, should you have a proceeding following the coming hearing. If the references are pertinent, there is not now time to seek them out. They are not to infrasound but to inaudible sound, which may or may not include it, and to the deafening effects. If this stuff is of value, it will mean more to the researcher to whom I am delivering it than to me, for I am not expert.

My source was an old Bulgarian sort of Renaissance man whose practise was otology but whose training was much broader. He was accredited in several disciplines. I last heard from him at least five and probably six years ago. The last two times I was in New York I was unable to locate him. It is possible he died. If he had not, he would be about 75. Almost the last thing I heard from him was a note of thanks for my note on the death of his wife. If he is alive, I feel this EPA researcher will find him, as I not cannot.

What I am taking there includes a bibliography of his work, most of which I do not have and some correspondence referring to it. His name is Zhivko Angeluscheff (correct). If the EPA people can't locate him, he had a young associate named Dmitri who worked with him who might, perhaps, still be around. Dr. A. did some pioneering work of which I know, having nothing to do with frequency.

I am out of copy paper for my copying machine. On Friday, when I saw this researcher, I showed her your testimony. When I give her this file I will ask her to send you a xerox of anything in it that might be relevant to your coming hearing. Meanwhile, if you are in any of the fine libraries in your area, and I'd suggest the university at Berkeley has one, you might see what is attributed to Dr. A.

I have another purpose in writing in these few spare minutes, to try to bring you a little non-synthetic comfort. All of us who have had to face the problems of noise have had to learn the hard way. We are not prepared for it. Our situation is now quite old. The troubles began in 1954 or 1955. Understandings was slow coming to me. I saw these strange things in my wife, so many of which you described exactly, and more, I wondered, and she was non-responsive, not comprehending herself. I consulted a number of shrinks, almost all resulting to new futilities. There was one, an older one about to retire, who made good sense. He said don't worry about your wife's mental health. How can you live this way without reacting? Worry more if she does not react. To this he added the advice that we move as soon as it was possible. We did.

So, your reacting is normal and healthy. I would imagine that a psychoneurosis is predictable and natural. Consider whether this is not the body's way of trying to cope. I think if you can find a way of consciously coping it may be helpful. I do, and there is a vast difference between my wife's attitude and mine. Selye has just addressed this (he won't turn on, though, preferring the lab). He says leisure is bad for those with stresses to live with, activity is good, especially if it is a confronting activity. Makes sense.

I am beginning to find and to understand more of these emotional reactions within myself I think they also are natural, if unwelcome. You are not alone and I suspect we are more numerous than is recognized. Neither the shrinks nor other professionals, save for the rare exceptions like Dr. A., are hep or are even willing to try. They live with the traditional cliches and stereotypes that are easier. One of the exceptions seems to be Dr. Bruce Welch, of John's Hopkins. He and his wife did a book I can't afford. His testimony at the EPA Boston hearing is in their Vol VII, which is on the physiological and psychological effects of noise. If you want a list of what they've published on noise, I'll send it. Chins up!