

MAR 8 1972

I am sorry I forgot to include the note on the cassette when I mailed it this a.m. I had run into a minor problem with the cassettes again and that led to a discovery about batteries. Remember, take no time on any of this kind of thing but if you can shed any light, perhaps when you write you then can. The Sheraton tape worked very well. There was a Martin Agronsky show in NET locally last night, and in the hope that they'd repeat what had been on Saturday I prepared to tape it. I used one of the new, cheap cassettes I had just gotten, they went into something else, I turned it off, went to rewind, and it wouldn't. So, I moved it away from the TV to where I have better light and in so doing discovered that the new batteries were dead. They were ordinary batteries, but I had not used them. I had used the battery eliminator you gave me. So, I wonder if this is because the batteries ~~just~~ were bad to begin with, although new (they can get old in commercial channels, I suppose), or whether there is some drain on them in normal use of the eliminator. The Sony batteries that came with it are incredible. I used the machine for two hours or more on them, replaced them as a precaution when I was off on the last trip, saved them for an emergency, and when I got him, put them in a radio in which I have used them for hours. They are still running that radio well, going back to 12/1. In all of this I learned that the indicator will indicate dead and the TC40 won't run when there is this life left in the batteries. That is good. It ought keep speed constant. I put the new dead batteries in the set and it has been running about 15 minutes on them. There is something else we can learn from this if you have not already: if the speed on the cassette I sent you is ok, then we know that with the batteries showing dead on the indicator but the eliminator in use, the machine will still run ok. I can see now that it will cost nothing to run this radio. In fact, as soon as I make a phone call, with the weather having

warmed up again, I'm going out and get a little exercise and I'll carry this radio with me to listen to the news, if it can be called that, while I work. At my aged better than whistling!

CBS has a China Special Thurs. I'll try and tape it for you. I expect to be able to. However, I'll have to use these new cheap 60s, and that may mean I'll miss a little at the middle as I shift the cassette over. What I am doing is trying each one in advance, before putting it in the machine. I've put two that hand aside for return. The one in the machine now, meaning each machine, is ok. Or was last night.

I don't know if you'll want to see the NBC airing of Red Women's Detachment, but maybe this will get to you in time so you'll know it is on Friday night. I'll leave early enough when I go for Lil to make the outgoing mail. Perhaps you have a neighbor on which either or both could see it if you desire. From what I saw live, it sure is worth it.

You understand I'm not trying to sell you on getting a TV, but by accident last night after the White special we saw something worthwhile, Odets' Awake and Sing, with a good cast. Takes me back to my boyhood. And we have recently seen some good stuff made by BBC. It is good as a change of pace when one works all the time when there is something of cultural value. The surprising thing me me is the honest approach of the government-owned BBC. They say all the unkind things about their past, about the evils, excesses and murders of their earlier rulers, etc. We've seen most of the Henry VIII series and I think a total of three of however many they did on Elizabeth. With Lil working I'm the one who goes over the programs as I go over the papers. She looks at the weekly listing on Sundays and marks what she may want to see, which is very little. Only this kind of stuff. There are now two and will soon be a third "educational" station we can get, but except for the one in Wash. no access to programs. hw