

6/12/71-Please do NOT regard this as urgent, requiring any kind of special or special trip or writing. I finally heard from Sony today in answer to my inquiry about special attachments for your wonderful gift. It was completely non-responsive, and by third class when it would have taken but a single first-class stamp, and then was nothing but a catalogue of their sets and recorders. We have no Sony dealer locally. One of the things about which I wanted to know more is the rechargeable pack and whether it can be used as batteries only when carried rather than in a building. The lit. with the set says these batteries last half again as long, which would be a real convenience in the field, if true. Another is how long, as compared with regular AAs and alkalines, the rechargeable's last. I have heard that in this size the recharg's last relatively longer but find it hard to believe. Perhaps your store knows the answers. Also, do the alkalines really pay? I have a charger. If those that can be rejuvenated last as long or longer than the regulars, when I'm away, small as they are, it might pay to have a supply of them. On the ~~the~~ other hand, the easiest and cheapest things might be to use the cheapest and just toss them away every two hours, whether or not they have life left. I'll never forget my GE rechargeables for the VOM recorder pooped out in the middle of Hemming's confession of his part in the coming Haitian adventure, and my not learning it until too late. I had the same thing happen in N.O. at a crucial point when taping a phone interview, again learning it too late. Each time I was certain they'd last longer. The quality on this machine is really good. Also, has your shop any plugs to fit this, so I can try one or more of my (good) spare mikes and one tie-clip with a built-in switch. I ordered a pair almost as soon as I got the set through a local store than has a few Sony items. No word yet. The only local supply house is

Lafayette. Other than this, music, jewelry and cut-rate stores only here. When I'm in DC I never have enough time and will have less until Lil's knee is completely better, which will probably be at least several more months. However, she is moving around pretty well now. She was able to walk around the house and look at her (sad) flowers this p.m. That's at least the length of a football field. And with one crutch only. She even made the bed this a.m. when I wasn't looking, so progress is good. Anyway, please, no extra trips, no extra writing.

Thanks

HW

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