

MAR 14 1972

3/12- After liberating several
bull (mountain) pines from stifling
honeysuckle and the particular part
of the hillside I'm clearing from a
couple of unwanted locusts, I took a
langorous soak and decided to catch
up on the news. Lo! this long after
China CBS is still airing a series
it calls Walter Cronkite's Memoir
of China. This feature had him talk-
ing about the department stores
(well stocked with everything people
need but without central heating),
Sunday is a day of rest and a family
day except that the Young Pioneers
march off (indubitably, even to C and
CBS radiating happiness) to their
meetings with joyous songs (jokes
about how strange their titles are
to us), and the continuing news-
worthiness of the all-dominating
honesty and pride. Examples: no-
body will take a tip-over-for any-
thing. Voice in background: Boy,
wish that were here. C took a 10-
minute pedicap trip. The operator would
not take any pay. Translator
explained that rates are by the half-
hour and C had used less than that. C
says he said that means he should
pay for the half-hour even though
he was less than minimum. Operator
refused, saying that he could not
honestly charge for less than mini-
mum time, and no amount of persuasion
could change his belief and refusal.
Comments about transcendental beauty
of Hangchow but soot from very soft
coal and its deposits on everything.

But the strangest thing is that
honesty continues to diminate the
"news" after so long a time. It is in
every comment I ever hear. What a
society we live in if honesty in
another society so diminates comment
and news, huh?

Today's Post had no single story
on China, FBI, Harrisburg trial, or
even the widely if indefinitely
reported tragedy at that Minsk radio
factory (also mentioned without de-
tail now on CBS radio) tragedy. I
find myself wondering if it is the
one in which LHO worked. H