

JAN 11 1977

Dear Jim,

1/6/76

Your 1/1 could not have picked a better time to get here. We are about to have another snow, this is going to be the third straight day broken up by someone coming for help I can give, the mail has only what is disagreeable and cannot be ignored, and there is nothing else good I can think of. So getting my mind of something else before it gets grim is good,

I did not make myself as clear as I should have on the taping situation. You do correctly perceive that part of it is separation of the already overcrowded band. In the long run your advice of getting the most sensitive and selective radio and using a separate recorder may be best.

I'm ashamed of not having consulted a station engineer! When I used to do radio and should have known.

What I had planned is to be able to tape in my own office, where I can watch and not have to hear unless I want to, as the hearings of the committee might be broadcast. Most of the day I can get a clean, good signal from two of the DC public FMs on the Craig, and that means no problem recording. I also have the Craig next to the TV, which means no problem recording from TV. Here all the trouble and expense I went to for an aerial tower so I can enjoy the drama on the public stations will help because I can get good signals from four public TVs. If there are hearings I will have to take in and they are on TV, I suspect they'll also be on the major FM public stations. If I watch them I already have the Panasonic deck connected to the inexpensive hifi. On it I can generally get what I do on the Craig better than any ordinary portable will permit because it is served by an aerial 40' in the air. Sometimes public stations the Craig cannot get. With the same problem, built-in AFC, which guarantees less selectivity.

The problems come from the crazy FCC, which is lousing up FM as it did AM. I can no longer get the original Washington good-music station because other signals kill it. It used to be out best. The only signal on FM that I want that to now has never been broken up at some time, including today, is the American University station. It is an authentic public and educational station, with mature and public-service scheduling. With other area stations offering what I would want, it would, as from the past would not change its scheduling for mere duplication. The non-college Washington public station to which I listen most and would depend on for these broadcasts is a powerful station but already is being interfered with. I used to have no trouble on the car radio with it now never make a trip into town without having it broken up with hard rock.

I feel I will want to make and keep full tapes of all committee hearings broadcast, and not for myself.

We are fairly high up and while blocked by what is above us, as you are, on FM we are not. On TV my next neighbor gets as good a signal on rabbit ears as we can do with the tower and aerial. However, it is not unusual for me to get what is theoretically impossible on FM, Philadelphia and Hershey, Pa., both over 150 miles away. Hershey might well broadcast what I'd want but now is not a dependable signal. However, this also illustrates the interference problem.

I may wind up taking your advice. I have an inexpensive portable one of our college girl friends left here. I had it fixed and she had replaced it so she gave it to me. It does not have AFC and is newer than any other I have. I use it in my office, which I'm still reorganizing. The changes seem to be working out well. They include a device called a desk organizer. It is a shelf with compartments. Now that I have it I have the radio on it so I will not have to take my legs down, take the blanket off them and turn around to behind to tune the set or turn it on or off. It had been my thought to keep the radio-recorder where it is most of the time and be able to operate it and tape

while doing other work and without all the motion and adjusting.

I'm not clear on when or why but I think after I asked you I thought of the French TV producer who has been here several times. I've been of much help to him, taking much time for hi, and expect to be in the future. He is to be coming back soon. What I did not think of with station engineers here I did of his engineers and the probability of his being able to buy a first-rate set for much less than I could. So I asked him to ask his people for an opinion and if they can offer advice and it is no problem for him to add that to all he'll be bringing with his crew anyway to let me know. I've not heard.

I think I also had in mind that I might want to tape some of the early jazz shows I hear in the early a.m. This I could do at the desk, where I hear them, and not elsewhere. This is not essential and if I can't get a sensitive and selective radio with recorder built in I will follow your common sense suggestion. It will make a clutter while I tape but that won't be daily. However, I want to keep what I have to have on the desk to a minimum because I also have an old portable TV that works and there may be times when the hearings are telecast and not broadcast, judging from the past. The portable TV is so old it does not have KUHF, however. It was given to a student by one who was leaving and the student who had it did not need it and did not know another who wanted it so it was left here. ...

From what you say about your weather I believe your guess about the jet stream is correct. We are already into a colder period than usual for this time of winter. The local explanation is that the jet stream for this part of the world is about 200 miles farther south than usual. If it shifted east-west and it has north-south you are correct.

My vet neighbor had to build a metal lean-to against the back of his house to thwart the eastern racoons. Wherever they are they seem to be pretty clever. I burn the paper, compost all that will rot and they have no interest in cans and bottles. ...

Of course you are right about the AP's B wire. I never stopped to think of the changes. No, it is not the regional wire. it is a state wire and I know it is out of Baltimore.

China: I've found the Post's extra attention interesting. A provocative piece this morning. I'm accumulating another 3cl mailing.

The accuracy, even precision of my forecast about the House committee is dismaying. In today's mail I have a mimeograph copy of its report. The report will be printed in time. If you want a copy let me know. I've have to get and to Livingston's latest - and in this case literal - insanity.

Best, and many thanks for the trouble,

