

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 dominate 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 dominates 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