

FEB 15 1975

Dear Jim,

2/15/75

Your 2/10 sort of put it all together for me on a tape recorder. I guess it was worried about spending the money and if I had not would have given thought to nothing else. One of the two most completely trouble-free items I've ever had is this TC40. And it is used extensively. (The other is an all-wave Zenith purchased in 1966 and used regularly without any problem at all.) I phoned around until I found a local dealer who does not advertise it but handles Sony and learned there are three models close to my description. Two Sony lines, which I didn't know. Their second line is called merely Superscope. I wonder if it is identical with no advertising allocated to its price. The TC40 replacements are close to \$150 now. There is a similar Superscope model for \$75. Anyway, the first time I'm in that part of town, my immediate need for a duplicate being delayed, I'm going to look at them and the catalogue and I'll ask Cesar to do some price comparisons in DC before buying. The models are TC42,45,55 and as I recall it Superscope 66.

I don't like not to have a dependable machine by the phone because there are those who phone me who have no objection to my taping and this makes accuracy and more completeness possible and permits letting Cesar have the exact words and get impressions. All valubale.

Especially now with all the craziness going on.

My first use of a second machine, aside from taping and having that remarkable (and equally trouble-free) Craig gone over, would have been with Lonnie, whose coming is delayed. So, if it presents no problem, there remain two questions that occur and on which Mark's advice could be helpful. Is the subminerature, which they are again making, as dependable if used less intensively; and is the Superscope second line as dependable? Without seeing them I presume the difference between the TC models is the features they have, like counter, automatic cutoff, etc.

I'm not going to rush out and buy now because the immediate need ended with Mary's flu and Lonnie won't be coming immediately and I have only one tape for JL to dub, so I'll give that one to him to hear. He's to be here tomorrow and he's heard the rest. If I seem to have a grasshopper attitude toward money all of a sudden, that isn't so. It is merely that we have had a little (that I still owe) more than usual come in and we have these needs. You are correct that I can't afford what isn't most durable and dependable. Another consideration that prompts the interest in the subminerature is the extra uses I could get. One is listening to tapes without having to carry one slung over the shoulder when I'm travelling. I could use the smaller one on each trip to and from DC and even when taking Lil to and from work and then pocket it. Of course as I get older and more tired, when I travel, which isn't often now, the smaller size is an advantage on the plane and elsewhere. But not worth the sacrifice in the magnificent performance of the TC 40. It also gives me better tapes under the worst conditions. If I didn't tell you, better with Ray than Bud's large Sony with external mike.

Sorry you are having no writing successes. On Saga, Marty Singer used to be a friend of mine until Saga's lawyer was a crook with Saga's money when Bringuier filed his spurious suit. It meant problems for all of us, a situation so delicate that Hell's lawyer said he'd handle it - and then gypped both Saga and me! I guess Marty is turned off now so I've not been in touch with him. He has a strong interest in UFOs and I think might go for some of what you've told me in the past, like evidences of visitations in ancient China. If it interests you I'd try him out on this.

I've about enough time to make separate comments on your comments on Undercover, which I found worthwhile and will be filing under that.

Best and thank,