

HW:

By now this is ancient history, but we picked up here a couple of angles on the Ted Sorenson snafu which might not have reached you.

One was from Sorenson himself. He appeared on the Robert MacNeil-Jim Lehrer Report on PBS the day after he withdrew his name from nomination. He appeared genuinely startled at the concerted opposition which had been mustered against him in the Senate. He said that before the hearings he contacted all but one of the committee to explain his views and all but one appeared open minded and not hostile. The one exception was Goldwater, who refused to see him. At the hearing itself he found that a majority of them had turned 180 degrees against him. He professed inability to understand this volte face except as a result of concerted lobbying against him and the possibility that they didn't want someone with his knowledge of the Kennedy plots (he was not more specific, unfortunately) heading up an outfit like the CIA.

The source of the lobbying against him was hinted rather openly by the NY Times, which said the CIA descended on the Senate en masse and turned the committee members around against Sorenson.

jdwl2feb77

12 February 1977

Dear Harold:

Thanks very much for sending Seven Days. Don't send any more, as we get it as a hangover from the late Ramparts, to which we had subscribed years in advance in an effort to help keep it afloat.

Glad to hear the past couple of days that your bad weather seems to be breaking up. Let's hope so. We hadn't worried, but were conscious of how uncomfortable and difficult life can be under such restricted conditions.

You may have heard by now of our drought. In Marin County, where it's most acute, our daily water ration is 43 gallons per person daily for people in a family of two. We get along nicely with this if we're careful, the only worry being that if Jenifer should develop serious trouble with her irrigation chore we'll need more. Fortunately they grant variances for health problems, so we expect to ask for a small margin to take care of any such. Using an array of buckets and big pans we are able to use some water three times before finally bidding it goodbye.

The whole state is in trouble, however, and the ultimate effect is going to be much higher food prices and other complications before it's over. We understand the drought extends as far east as Kansas, but it's not yet clear here just how dry things are east of the Sierra. Here the main problem is low reservoirs, this being the second dry year in a row. Only 14 inches of snow in the Sierra, where normally they have that many feet. The big pinch is yet to come, of course.

Best to you both,

jdwl