

be just as ridiculous as the other, because it was not until the 5th century A.D. that people began to use our present system. It was not until the 5th Century A.D. that a monk sat down and tried to figure out just how many years it was after the birth of Christ and he studied and gathered all the data available and he made a mighty good job of it and he came to the conclusion that it was a certain number of years ago and he was just 4 off. So now we say, Christ was born in 4 B.C. which is ridiculous, of course, How could Christ be born four years before Christ and there is a big argument, when does the second half of the 20th century begin? Does it begin in 1950, or does it begin in 1951. Why it is a perfectly silly argument because actually it began in 1948. There are 1950 years since the birth of Christ complete, in 1946 or 47, I forget exactly which and the next year began the second half of the 20th century and it is utterly ridiculous to say that it began in 1950 or 1951, the monk was just 4 years off. And so our present system is an artificial system. It is observe to say that it is 1950 A.D., it isn't, it is approximately 1950 after Christ. It's actually 1954. It is only approximate. It's a convenient system. After all it doesn't mean anything to say that this is 1950 after the death of Christ, because it isn't. It is the year 1950 in a series of years to which we have given arbitrary numbers. We have established a useful system of 12 dates and it is very very handy and it would be very foolish to make a change in it, but they didn't have that system in ancient times and that particular concept which seems so simple to us because we are used and accustomed to it is a concept that they didn't have. Yet like the woman in Berlin when I was studying there, I told her of an experience that I had at one time when I came out of the mountains in California and came down into a little town of --- 12 1/2 and I wanted to get into Los Angeles about 30 miles away and I went to the R.R. and found that there was no train for two hours and I didn't want to wait around so I went up onto the street and I and I waved my hand and the man said, "Come on jump in." and I told her