

FOR PETER ABRAHAMS

26/10/62

Dear Peter,

here are the facts of the case I spoke to you about earlier. Give me a buzz if you have any questions.

Shortly before my return to Jamaica from England recently, and airline over-weight charges being what they are, I posted from England to myself in Jamaica a parcel of personal used clothing weighing about 19lbs. All the necessary declarations were filled out and the parcel was insured.

Today I received a Detained Parcel Notice from the Post Office in Kingston. I phoned the parcel post department to ask what information they wanted and where I should go to collect the parcel. I was told that they wished to know when I arrived in Jamaica, which port I entered by, and the name of my ship or airline. A rubber stamp on the notice left space for this information to be filled in.

(I'd like to note that, on my arrival at Palisadoes, the Customs man there asked me if I had any parcels coming. I told him 'yes' and also told him what the parcel contained. He noted the facts on a form.)

I filled in the information on the parcel notice and took it to the Parcels Post Department on Orange Street, opposite to the Jamaica Public Service Co's offices, as instructed when I spoke to the Parcels Post Department.

Incidentally, the parcel was ~~sent~~ ^{consigned} to an address in Half Way Tree, but I accepted my fate and made off for Orange Street.

I arrived at the Parcels Post office (where I had quite a time finding a parking space) at 11.00 o'clock and handed in the Notice.

At a quarter to twelve, I began to get somewhat restless and ~~was~~ decided to ask a few questions. I was told to go to another counter and tell the lady there that I had been waiting a long time without getting my parcel.

Having succeeded in getting hold of this very elusive lady, who disappeared and returned several times, I was told they were looking for the parcel.

I waited.

At precisely three minutes to twelve....exodus. Chairs were pulled back, shutters were pulled down. Lunchtime had arrived. I had time for one more quick conversation with my elusive lady.

The upshot of this was that the parcel could not be found, it had not been filed in the racks and could I please come back at 1.00. To which I replied sweetly that I did not have sufficient time to spend messing about at the Post Office all day.

I was then, and only then, told that it was really quite a simple matter. All I had to do was write on the form a request that the parcel be forwarded to Half Way Tree after inspection and assessment by Customs.

I told them that there could be no assessment, because the articles contained in the parcel were purchased in Jamaica, and were merely returning to Jamaica. I was told not to worry about this, that there would probably be only a small charge for some obscure fee or other.

I filled in the request on the form and departed at 12.00, after having been asked 'could I borrow your pen please?' and 'Keep your eye on this gentleman's parcel a minute for me please'.

Very nice people individually, most pleasant, 'don't blame me' etc..... but Oh Brother.

As ever
Reggie