

7 September 1971

The Hon. Bella Abzug
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Abzug,

Re: Lack of service from U.S. Postal Administration

Before departing for the months of July and August on vacation, I filed a temporary change of address form requesting that all mail be forwarded to me in the care of General Delivery at Ocean Beach, Fire Island, N.Y. 11770, and guaranteeing payment of postage for forwarding newspapers and magazines.

While resident at Ocean Beach, I received first class mail only, and I would like to commend the personnel of the Ocean Beach post office for their unfailing courtesy, patience, and efficiency. However, none of the periodicals to which I subscribe were forwarded, which compelled me to purchase those which were available, and to forego those which were not on sale at Ocean Beach, incurring both considerable duplicate expense and serious inconvenience. For example, I did not receive and could not purchase copies of The Nation, one issue of which contained an article of importance to me in my work as a free-lance writer and researcher.

Upon my return to my permanent address at 302 West 12 Street, New York, N.Y. 10014, I was appalled to find that the huge mass of mail that had accumulated for me there included many pieces of first-class mail and even a telegram which had been sitting in my mail box for about two months. Some of the periodicals to which I subscribe were delivered and held for me, but more copies were missing than were delivered, and none of the July or August issues of The Nation had arrived at all. I am especially disquieted by this because I have had persistent non-delivery of that magazine in the past, when normal delivery should have been made to my permanent address without any forwarding or other complications, and I have wondered if that default was related in any way to the editorial policy of The Nation.

I bring this situation to your attention for your information when the Congress next is called upon to legislate U.S. Postal Administration rates and regulations, in the hope that you will use the occasion to insist on the improvement of mail services. As things now stand, it is only when the Postal Administration desires to raise the price of postage that it displays any degree of energy and efficiency. When it comes to serving the public, there is scarcely even any pretense of doing a conscientious job in New York City, and I do resent having to pay ever higher rates for what can only be described as indifference to and contempt for the individual's mail services. Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York NY 10014

cc: Senator Jacob Javits
Senator James Buckley
The Nation
Postmaster, Village Station, NY 10014
The Hon. Winston Blount, Washington
Postmaster for New York area, NY 10001