

from + envelope under "Mail-Mine"

1/25/75

Claims and Inquiry
GPO, NYC, NY 10001

Gentlemen,

I have received Form 3760, WRAPPER FOUND WITHOUT CONTENTS, from the New York Bulk & Foreign Mail Center, 80 County Road, Jersey City, N.J. 07097, filled in by J. Fatigante.

"The contents" have not been satisfactorily accounted for," and I would like them to be because this does not appear to be a case of normal damage in the mails.

The address on Mr. Fatigante's form is not complete. It reads "Lady Stewart, Suite 404, 1697 Broadway, New York, N.Y., 10019. The wrapper, in the case a printed envelope, reads "Mr. Ernie Eban, Care of" then the rest.

Mr. Eban is a British film maker who is in the country preparing a documentary on the past decade, including political assassinations and their consequences. The title of this book that did not reach Mr. Eban is Whitewash IV: Top Secret JFK Assassination Transcript. Mr. Eban ordered it in a long phone conversation. Because the book did not reach him, Mr. Eban was forced to phone me again, a cost to him, and I to take the book into the Greyhound station for rather expensive delivery to the New York terminal, where Mr. Eban picked it up.

As a result of previous inquiry into non-delivery of my books on political assassinations I have been told by postal inspectors that where an address is found on packages like these the contents are supposed to be returned to that address. In one case this has happened to me. This book does have my name and address printed in the correct place. It has not been returned.

Moreover, the envelope part of which was returned has a facsimile of the cover printed 5 1/4 inches high, so identifying the wrapper with any book in the mail should have been easy if the attempt was made. Bearing on this, the postal inspectors also told me that regulations require the saving of all undelivered paper for sale as scrap. So the book should have been kept.

One of the troubling aspects in this case is that the remnant of envelope that was sent me was cut, not torn. This is true of three of the four irregular edges. Another is that the book should not have been in the bulk mail because I paid the extra postage for first-class. All the postage is not on the remnant returned to me but the crossing out of the printed legend "Special Fourth Class Rate - Book," is visible. In addition, this package, which I think contained two books, was wrapped with reinforcing tape. Parts of this tape around the envelope three times in the shorter dimension are visible - and visibly cut. I am fairly certain I had the edges reinforced with one-inch paper tape. And at two points the tearing off of the Scotch tape is clearly visible.

These factors raise a question in my mind about how normal this damage was. If it is possible for you to make an inquiry looking toward an answer, I would appreciate it. And I would like the books back. One may have an earlier address than the one on this letterhead but it should be sent to me at this address.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg