Buto - By

La Fayette, Ill.
Mch 23-1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt.

APR 3 1945

I am taking the liberty of writing you as a mother whose sons are also in service. This clipping that I am enclosing is in my opinion a disgrace and is certainly injurious to the morale of our boys. You have been out in the Pacific and I am sure you know that mail is just the only thing those boys on those forsaken + desolate islands have to look forward too. I know it to be so from my sons letters. He has not received any Christmas packages but said they knew where their packages were. Many parents have sent things

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of value such as watches and fountain pens. My son said many of his buddies parents had started hopes to them with such things but like my son, they have not received theirs either. I just felt so let down when I read this enclosed article for the packages are the only thing we can send and also Christmas was the only time we can send the boys things. I have put a lot of thought on the injustice of it and it wont be so long before the papers will again be stressing the point about "mailing packages Overseas for Christmas and I suppose again" the promise that the boys will receive them in time for Christmas. I feel that you will make an effort to see that some wheels are started rolling to set the situation right. Surely if the government navy can spare ships to bring those horrible prisoners for us to feed and care for, some can be spared to at least take the Christmas hopes to the boys who are so valiantly

fighting to keep them away.
I also think it very unjust
that the ships can be spared
to bring those prisoners to our
shores to be well fed & well
housed and still no ships can be
spared to bring our boys from
the pacific unless they have been
there 30 months at least.

Very sincerely

Mrs. Ben Button

La Fayette

Illinois

[ORIGINAL RETIRED]

Fulton Declares Many Packages Are Unclaimed

Washington—(AP)—Rep. Fulton (R., Pa.), said today millions of unclaimed and undelivered Christmas packages for members of the armed forces are stacked in Pacific military bases.

He told a reporter he will recommend that congress suggest turning the packages over to the American Red Cross to be distributed to GI's who were forgotten at Christmas.

The packages haven't been delivered, Fulton said, because of battle casualties, transfers and various other reasons. Many contain perishable food, candy and other delicacies.

"There are 32,000 mail bags at one Pacific base alone," said the congressman who recently returned from navy duty in the Pacific. "At another base I counted 000 mail sacks stacked right out the rain and weather."

File. [Byerly] April 11, 1945
Dade City, Fla.

Dear Mrs Roosevelt:-

Please excuse my writing in pencil as I am just getting over a very bad sick spell. More or less on the ordinary of a break-down and am still in bed so please excuse my writing too.

In fact I am very sorry to be writing and disturbing you people at all but am desperate and do not know what to do.

I am a service mans wife with three children to look out for and as I said before am most sick from nerves.

We came here to live nine months ago. I took the present

appartment of three rooms thinking at the end of a couple weeks I could get better and cheaper. We lived in one room and could not cook and I just had to have a place so we came across this three rooms and the landlord ask $30.00 rent but didn't care especially for children. Well, I told my husband when he came in from camp and he said to offer him $40 so I did and the mans great greed for money made him ~~accept~~ accept. So for nine month that what I've paid and before two weeks were up he tacked on an extra $1.25 for electric. Well tried so hard to find another place but everywhere I went and anyone ask where I lived and I'd tell them they'd laugh. Now Mrs Roswalt what folks had to say or hinted had no bearing on my feeling toward these people But I did find out for myself. Now when we first moved here it was nothing for these people to come tramping through our part as if they still had possession of it and we

were only visitors.

When we came here we had the use of their tubs to wash and their iron and ironing board and we had to furnish our own dishes, bed covers and sheets. All that in these rooms is just a table & 4 chairs - a stove and ice box. An old wicker set in the parlor and a bed and dresser in the bed room. But outside the ugly furniture I'd be perverricating if I said they were not fairly nice rooms. We have the use of a pretty

2/ nice bath room with
the back apartment.
Now when I first came here
beside my rent and electric
I would buy chicken, eggs
and oranges and a little
wood and kerosene off of
them. And when my
check came paid them
anywhere from nine to
eleven dollars for these
services which I could
have gone up town and
gotten at much less a price.
Now Mrs Roosevelt this
stuff is all immaterial, I
guess I am going the long

way around.

What I mean is most important to me is, through the O.P.A. is there any way I can get what I over payed in rent back? I now for over five or six months, have had no way of washing nor ironing and with my three youngsters in school, it's been terrible. What little bit of clothes they did have I had to throw away on account of mildew and they have very little as at their age it's hard to buy for if I did have the money. But they refused to let me use the conveniences they offered with the apartment and I've salvaged what little I had. Thanks to the man we rent from's sister. She lives next door to us and has been treated so dirty too by her brother. And poor soul is an expectant mother with 3 boys fighting over there. But with all her big family and troubles she's left me wash in her washer and

of course I paid her but she didn't want to take anything but I made her as I appreciated not only the favor but her friendliness. Then later on as she got to feeling worse I did her washing and mine too until I became so sick myself that I've been unable to get around which has been about 6 weeks now.

Last week two different neighbors took me out in their cars and the change did wonders for me. I felt much better and was beginning to regain some of my lost strength when day

3. before yesterday I went down to this one neighbors house that had seemed so nice as I was not feeling so well and thought a little diversion would kind of pick me up a little. You know, kind of forget myself. Well, everything went alright until on my way back I had to pass over this landlords land just a few feet and I honestly thought it was a street as a neighbor woman had told me it was. Well, the old landlord was out and he turned the water hose across from his house to the chicken fence so I couldn't pass and proceeded

to order me not to cross there to my neighbors and I told him I wouldn't and started on for home. Then his wife ran out to head me off. She wanted to really fight and as I wasn't feeling well I couldn't. But we had a few words and when she saw she wasn't working me up there she, spit out to me the words, and said this neighbor woman where I had just came from had ask her to order me away from her house. So naturally I went back and ask the lady so I could apologize for being a nuisance and the lady told me no she had never made the remark and then the landlady flew at her and used both profane and vulgar language at her and the lady said forbear and I to fight it that she had nothing in it which was well and right for her and her own priveldge. So I started to come on home and we had a few more words as the neighbor woman (the landlords wife) called the other neighbor a very undignified name and I told her and her husband right to their face that I found them to be the ones who were the first fust

of the name and turned to
come on home. As soon as I
had my back turned this
landlady took her mop handle
and punched me in the back
with it to such an extent
that its put me back to where
I was a month ago, sick
and nervous. I had her ar-
rested because you see Mrs
Roosevelt, I've had so many
operations and on account of
them my back is very weak
and sore. Especially over
the spot where I had my
gall-bladder out and that
is where she kept punching
me, at the time fully aware
of the fact that I am not well

4/ and haven't been ever since I've been here. And do you have any idea what these Southern folks did for me? They all stuck together and laughed right in my face and made fun of me. The Chief of Police and another man (both southerners) tried to do all they could for me but after it left their hands I got railroaded and in a place where an oath was taken to God, our Maker it was turned into a little short of being a free side show or jamboree. My husband did not even bother to testify. But I was ordered to leave their apartment by the first of the month and pay costs

or be hailed into Court by
May 2nd. And the old guy
said he'd make me smarty.
He'd tell the judge to make
me smarty. Well, as far as I
am concerned, it will go. I want
I want it to. Both the neighbor
woman and her step mother
admitted to the chief that they
saw and heard it all. And if
I don't get far I sure hope what
head way I do make that other
soldiers wives will benefit by
it. For I'm not the only service
mans wife suffering There are
millions. You'll never know.

But I sure need help and
badly Mrs Roosevelt. If there
is anyway. Please let me know.

Sincerely and with Respect
Mrs Joe C. Byerly

4/12/45

P.S. Dear Mrs Roosevelt:

I must surely have seemed irrational as I struggled along writing this other letter but every word is from my heart and the same to me as if I'd been under a Sacread Oath. But I've slept on it and reread it.

~~But~~ I still didn't get at what I really meant. I didn't write it to make myself out sanctimoniously personified. I am just as human and ugly as the next fellow to gain a point. But I'm not unfair.

And my main point of writing is to ask about this O.P.A. Rent Control. Does it not apply to all cities and towns ect., in the U.S.A.?

at present right here the landowners are going crazy raising their rent. I went up here in Dade City to see about my place and was told to go to Tampa! I went to Tampa last Friday and was told there is no rent control in Pasco Co.

The other folks that lived in these three rooms paid $35.00 rent. The place isn't really worth that. Three of their other tenants have moved out on. ~~Their~~ Landlord and lady's account. I mean their gossip and insinuations. They even stand outside our windows and look in. Even in broad daylight and have been in my house and the two neighbor houses while we were absent! Last Sunday was the first time since Aug. 16th when I moved in here that I could lock my three rooms air tight. As soon as my neighbors left with their last load of furniture (this is suppose to be a double house) I left the landowners think I was leaving too. The other folks who were moving had not gotten a block away until this landlord man and his wife hurried into their apartment (of 4 rooms that rented to anyone within

without children for $35.00.
plus $1.25 for electric) and
instead of inspecting that
apartment they made a
dash for my kitchen door
and tried to gain entrance.

Again please forgive me
this interuption especially
since there are so many
more important things
going on. But as my poor
children and I are in
direst need. Please guide me.

You may think I waste
my money. I get $20.00 I
pay $4.1.25 rent. From $10 to $15 for
launch at school for my children.
$2.50 at least for ice, about the
same for kerosene. And I try

to give a storekeeper at
least five dollars out of
that for a bill he was
good enough to let me run
when I lost $60.00 in Nov.
And may I add here
too. I gave $20.00 to my hus-
band when I got my check
last week and some one stole
it. We do not know who.
But my money was
in an Army wallet with
both my name and my
husbands name written
and typed. I mean what I lost
in Nov.
I will close now.
Please forgive me for
annoying you so. And also

3/ thank you kindly for following me this far. I surely would not blame you if you hadn't.

Whatever your answer to me is, Mrs Roosevelt if any (but I hope I do get one) I will abide by it. You are the mother of our country, to me, and if I've blundered and acted impertanent, I am sorry and will try to make rights my wrong. And if I'm right, I'll thank God and you too that I've proven to myself that I am saner than I've credited myself to be.

Best regards. Sincerely
Mrs Byerly

I have some thing to
till you, we had a visitor from
the good old U.S.A. and it happened
to be Mrs. Roosevelt I think it was
nice to have some one from the
States to visit us.

Rec'd Letter from soldier
in S. W. Pacific dated Sept. 8, 1943