

GRAND LODGE  
BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY AND STEAMSHIP CLERKS,  
FREIGHT HANDLERS, EXPRESS AND STATION EMPLOYES  
BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY CLERKS BUILDING  
CINCINNATI, 2, OHIO

—  
GEO. M. HARRISON,  
GRAND PRESIDENT



File 434-0

Subject: Parcel Post Rates

10 Independence Ave. S. W.  
Washington 4, D. C.

July 20, 1950

Hon. Marriner S. Eccles,  
Federal Reserve Board,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

I have before me an associated press release dated at Salt Lake City, July 18, wherein you advance a program for checking the present inflationary trend in our economy.

In your six point program it is noted that you recommend an increase in second and third class postal rates to meet the Post Office Department deficit. I believe that not only second and third class postal rates should be increased but also that postal rates on fourth class and special services should be increased. For your information, the Postmaster General while empowered by existing law - Section 247 of Title 39, U.S. Code - to fix rates, weights and size limits at such a level to pay the cost of the service rendered, yet he declines to take such action unless rates on other classes of postal matter are increased. Even then there is no assurance that he would take action under the statute.

The low level of parcel post rates together with the high weight limit of 70 pounds and an overall dimension of 100 inches, length and girth combined, of parcel post pieces has placed the Post Office Department in the less-than-carload freight business to the detriment of private transportation agencies such as the Railway Express Agency whose employees we have the honor to represent. 37,000 of our people have been forced into the ranks of the unemployed due to the unfair competition of parcel post and we are certainly in need of assistance to get the pending bill before the Congress, H.R. 2945, enacted. This bill has passed the House and is now pending in the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

It is hoped that you will amend your program to control inflation to also include fourth class matter which is largely parcel post and in addition to an increase in rates thereon some reductions in the weight and size limits.

Yours very truly,

*Hartman Barber*  
General Representative

August 8, 1950.

Mr. Hartman Barber,  
General Representative,  
Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks,  
10 Independence Avenue, S. W.,  
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear Mr. Barber:

Your letter of July 20 arrived while I was in the West. I have read with interest what you have to say about the need to increase the postal rates on fourth class and special services as well as second and third class postal rates. I agree fully with your recommendations.

What I said in my statement about the increase on postal rates was only an incidental part of my general statement on inflation. In case you are interested in seeing my full statement I am enclosing a copy herewith.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles.

Enclosure