

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD
WASHINGTON

December 9, 1920.

X-2086

Subject: Wrapping and marking of first class mail.

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith, for your information and such action as you deem necessary, copy of letter to the Board from Honorable J.C. Koons, First Assistant Postmaster General, and also copy of letter addressed to the First Assistant Postmaster General by the Baltimore local postmaster, with reference to the insecure and insufficient wrapping and marking of first class mail packages containing checks sent through the mails between Federal Reserve Banks and Branches and their correspondents.

Very truly yours,

R.G. Emerson
Assistant to Governor.

Enclosures.

To Chairmen of all F.R. Banks.

X-2086 a

COPY
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
First Assistant Postmaster General
WASHINGTON

December 4, 1920.

Federal Reserve Board,
Treasury Department.

Gentlemen:

There is enclosed a copy of a letter dated November 29 from the postmaster of Baltimore, Maryland, calling attention to the fact that the envelopes or wrappers containing packages of checks, etc., sent by Federal Reserve Banks, branches and correspondents, are usually of such size and character that they are easily mistaken for parcel post mail, and suggesting that an order be issued for the proper wrapping of such packages and labeling "first class" in conspicuous letters in order that there may be no delays in the handling of such mail.

As you are undoubtedly aware, when congestion occurs at any point in the postal service preference in handling is always given to first-class matter, and as it will unquestionably serve to prevent vexatious and expensive delays, the suggestion of the postmaster of Baltimore is fully approved by the Department, and your earnest cooperation in the matter will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

(Signed) J. C. KOONS.

First Assistant Postmaster General.

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Baltimore, Maryland.
November 29, 1920.

First Assistant Postmaster General,
Division of Post Office Service,
Washington, D.C.

The envelopes, or wrappers, containing shipments of checks between the Federal Reserve Banks, branches and their correspondents, are frequently larger than ordinary letters, and, in some instances, they are wrapped so poorly and put up in such shape that they are easily mistaken for parcel post mail. One instance that came under my observation was that of a large package of checks from the Federal Reserve Bank of Saint Louis, to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which was misssent to Baltimore, Maryland, in a sack of parcel post mail, and again, recently, the Federal Reserve Bank of Baltimore complained of the delay of two hours in the receipt of a large package of checks coming from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the delay, I believe, was due to its being treated as a parcel post package.

I have to offer the suggestion, if it meets with your approval, that the Federal Reserve Board be induced to issue a general order to the regional banks and their branches and also request that they, in turn, ask their correspondents, whenever a package of checks is unusually large, that the envelope or wrapper be printed or stamped conspicuously "First Class". This, I believe, will prevent the mis-treatment, to a large extent, of such mail in future.

(Signed) SHERLOCK SWANN

Postmaster.