

TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. --- IN INTEREST OF A

PRIORITY NUMBER-- MARCH 28--April 1, 1943

B.A. McLaughlin, O.P.

1. Met Mr. William Cronin, First Executive Secretary to Frank C. Walker, Post Master General of U.S. at 9.30 A.M. in his Office.
2. He called on the phone Mr. Aloysius J. E. Mullan, Office of the Deputy Director, General For Field Operation, War Production Board, Clearance Group #7, Field Contact Branch.
Mr. Mullan was just about to get at the question of the Priority Number for the College.
Mr. Cronin explain the urgency of the case, and, Mr. Mullan promised he would pursue the case immediately and report back to Mr. Cronin.
3. At 12:30 P.M. I called Cronin; he had heard nothing from Mullan; he instructed me to go over to Mullan and check personally.
4. Met Mullan at 3:00 o'clock;
The conversation was as follows:
Mullan---"Did you come down here just to get the number.
I----- "Certainly"
Mullan-- "No need to have done that; I could have fixed it without you coming down"
To myself--I said you had 17 days to fix it, and, nothing happened.
Mullan---"Things are all fixed--I've just talked with Providence War Production, Mr. Dolan, and told him no priority number is needed for the steel beds but only for the springs, for which the College has the Number"AA-3"
So just go ahead and order the beds etc.
I-----"BUT, Mr. Mullan, what Government document have I got to guarantee that I can get the beds, without a priority number.
Mullen-----" I have made some telephone calls around and, I have told Mr. Dolan in Providence what questions to ask and what to say, so everything is now fixed up.
I.-----" Just as you say."
5. I then left and went back to Mr. Cronin.
In the meantime Mullan had called Cronin.
Said the same things to Cronin, but, Cronin did not like Mullan's assertion "I did some finagling around, and, it is alright!"
Cronin was not satisfied. He insisted that I call Providence and find out definitely if the order had been placed in N.Y. and, that the beds etc would be delivered on a certain date.

6. I, then, called Miss Scott in Providence of the Simmons Beds Co. and, I told her to call New York Office to make certain beds could be delivered under the above conditions of Mullan, and, when would they be delivered.
7. At five oclock she called me back, and, assured me of delivery as set forth in a letter which I send to her confirming our conversation:

St. Dominic's Priory
515--6th, Southwest
Washington, D.C.

March 29, 1943

Dear Miss Scott:

In confirmation of our telephone call which I did have at five o'clock, it is definite that Simmons Bed Co. has already placed an order for Providence College for 250 steel beds double decker beds for which no priority number is necessary, and, also, for 500 steel springs for these double decker beds for which the priority number "AA-3" which is herein enclosed, and, also, for 500 mattresses. That this order will be delivered at the College during the week of Apr 1 12th.

Thanking you for your kind cooperation, I am

Sincerely

Bernard A. McLaughlin, O.P.

8. I called on Mr. Cronin again. Thank him. He was satisfied we got the beds. He was discusted with Mr. Mullan and would not talke of him, only to say, we got the beds so why worry about Mullan.
9. Mr. Mullan, when I asked him what his postion was, said, I am know as the trouble maker for the department.

THE CASE OF :

MR. ANTHONY STEPHEN TAMASON
4 Charles Place,
Athol, Massachusetts.

I took up his case with:

GEORGE LULL
Brigadier General, M.D.
Office of The Surgeon General, U.S.A.
Maritime Commission Building,
1818 H St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Telephone Number----Republic 6700
Ex. 76142

Notation:

I will write the General 1 week before induction of
Anthony
Anthony will do the same.
I will also get in communication with other proper
authorities.