

OCT - 5 1942

**PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS SYSTEM**

EASTERN DIVISION, P.O. BOX 3311, MIAMI, FLORIDA

3071 Indiana Street
Coconut Grove, Florida
September 9, 1942

L-186

Dear Mr. Jester,

Thanks so much for the nice, relatively encouraging letter of the fourth. It's very kind of you to take such an interest in our apparently minor problem- I say apparently because naturally I think it's the world's biggest right now! But I daresay authorities disagree with me, which as far as I am concerned merely goes to prove that authorities are very often completely off their course.

As we expected, Mr. James Bell or his cohorts came back with a smashing refusal to consider priority. Well, that's what we thought they would do. So on to the next: Mr. E.A. King, Director of Traffic of the War Shipping Administration announces that while they are requesting the American West African Line to keep my application before them, they want to remind me that they are unable to offer encouragement due to Military requirements, and they suggest that I work through "my own organization" for some "special consideration". Now, doesn't that sound a little better to you? Unfortunately "my own organization" is most unco-operative- annoyingly so, mainly, I like to think (smugly), because they want to keep me here in my job, for which it is quite difficult to find new womanpower (requirements being: conversational knowledge of Spanish, French, Portuguese, ability to fit into a size twelve uniform, experience in the devious ways of Pan American, and capacity to stand and hold moist infants). Anyway, PAA is unco-operative. But don't you feel that the American West African Line would be more easily influenced? I shall certainly write to Mr. H.J. Finch this very afternoon, and see what he has to say.

Poor William sounds quite discouraged in his last letter- I am intimately acquainted with the feeling. But he says he is going to write to one Tom Burke, of the State Department, on the suggestion of a commentator friend names Linton Wells, who wangled until he got permission to bring his own wife with him. It seems to me that this gentleman named Burke is the man who answered my letter addressed to J.Bell, although at this moment I haven't the reply in hand. Several other people seem to have offered suggestions to William, which he has worked on. As you say, the thing to do is get some one over there to want me to work for them. Personally, I can't imagine how they are doing without me! Or at least that's what I should like not to be able to imagine!

Thanks again for the information and the letter, Mr. Jester.
I hope you have no strong objections to inveterate correspondents.

Sincerely,