

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS FROM SIERRA LEONE -- #8

January 20, 1964

Because of the cost of replacing the items stolen by our tiefs, I'm temporarily broke. However, the PC will reimburse me for the cost of certain items after I send the receipts for their purchase.

There's not much new to tell you. I've been leading a very mundane existence since school began—get up; school from 8:15 to 2; home; lunch; shopping, nap or reading; school work; dinner around 7:30 or 8; school work or reading; go to an occasional movie; then to bed by 11 P.M.

The only new thing is that I'm moving into the larger bedroom across the hall. It was our old junk room. I've repainted it—one wall white, 3 walls celestial blue, and the floor oxide red. Since none of the walls were true, I had to draw lines to 'true or straighten' them out before painting. Otherwise they would look wavy after painting. Right now I'm waiting for the floor to dry. The paint on the portion I painted first was too thick; now it's too thin because I added too much turpentine.

I carted all the junk down to Pat's room temporarily since most of it is hers anyway. Eventually my old room will be the junk room. Pat is home in New Jersey recuperating from an operation. It really has been pleasant since she's been gone. She and I get along like a cobra and a mongoose. Its rumored that she may stay for a third year. If so, I'm transferring. I absolutely refuse to live under her domination for another year.

The package of school stuff you sent me arrived clearly marked Educational Materials. The postmaster naturally had to open it to see what I was trying to smuggle in. It took him 10 minutes to get the string and 8 layers of wrapping paper off. (It was like another locust came and took another grain away.) And then it turned out to be Educational Materials. He was really disappointed.

Susie Hutchins, who lives up the street and teaches at the Moslem Boys School, recently received 5 pounds of popcorn and 65 rock & roll records marked Educational Materials. The postmaster wasn't going to let her have them until

she paid the duty, but her principal gave her note saying that they were educational materials. So the postmaster had to let her have them. But it took so long to straighten this out, that she had to leave the package at the post office overnight. The postmaster didn't have room in his safe for the whole package. Susie said all she was worried about was the popcorn. So, the popcorn spent the night in the safe while the records were left on the counter for anyone to steal. Fortunately, no one did.