



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

MAY 21 1984

Mr. Joseph H. Johnson, Jr.
Director, City Delivery
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO
100 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-2197

Re: Class Action
Marblehead, MA 01945
HIN-1E-C 25147

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On April 5, 1984, we met to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The grievance concerns whether letter carriers may be required to finger flats between stops.

It is the position of the Postal Service that letter carriers may be required to finger flat mail between stops as required by Part 321.5, M-41 Handbook. Obviously, the physical fingering activity may not be the same as for letter mail which is held in the hand. Flat mail is normally withdrawn from a satchel. The idea is to have all mail ready for deposit when the carrier reaches the delivery point and to avoid backtracking. Safety should be a prime consideration, by all means.

Accordingly, as we find no violation of the National Agreement, this grievance is denied.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Eugene
Labor Relations Department