



M-00748

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Labor Relations Department
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20280-4100

APR 23 1987

Mr. Lawrence G. Hutchins
Vice President
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO
100 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington, DC 20001-2197

Re: G. Diaz/Class
Houston, TX 77201
H4N-3U-C 26297

Dear Mr. Hutchins:

On March 10, 1987, we met to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The issue in this grievance is whether there is a contractual requirement to open for "opting" under the provisions of Article 41, Section 2.B.3 and 4 of the National Agreement an assignment which was filled through those procedures, but which again became available for 5 or more days due to the absence of the first employee who opted for the assignment.

After reviewing this matter, we mutually agreed that no national interpretive issue is fairly presented in this case. This case is suitable for regional determination through application of the Step 4 resolution in H1N-5D-C 2156, dated September 8, 1982, which provided in that case:

"Whereas the original opting employee went on vacation for five days or more within the original opting duration, the assignment should have been made available as a hold-down to other employees during this absence. Upon return from the annual leave of five days or more, the employee who first opted for the vacancy should have been allowed to return to the hold-down for completion of the original vacancy duration."

Mr. Lawrence G. Hutchins


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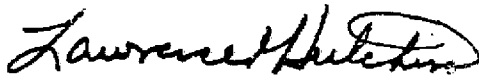
Accordingly, we agreed to remand this case to the parties at Step 3 for further processing, including arbitration if necessary.

Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter as your acknowledgment of agreement to remand this case.

Time limits were extended by mutual consent.

Sincerely,


James W. Bledsoe
Grievance & Arbitration
Division


Lawrence G. Hutchins
Vice President
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO