



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Labor Relations Department
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-4100

MAY 1 1987

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

Re: Class Action
Venice, FL 33595
H4N-3W-C 27743

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 a steward should be provided time on-the-clock to review copies of documents which were provided to him as an alternative to granting him time on-the-clock to review the original documents.

After reviewing this matter, we mutually agreed that no national interpretive issue is fairly presented in this case. Article 17, Section 3, provides in pertinent part, "(t)he steward...may request and shall obtain access through the appropriate supervisor to review the documents, files and other records necessary for processing a grievance or determining if a grievance exists . . . during working hours. Such requests shall not be unreasonably denied." Further, Article 17, Section 4, provides for Employer authorized payment to ". . . one Union steward . . . for time actually spent in grievance handling, including investigation" The parties at this level agree that this includes time for review of documents such as in question. The issue of what is, under given fact circumstances, a reasonable amount of time is not an interpretive issue and should be determined locally or, in the event of a dispute, at the regional level.

Mr. Lawrence G. Hutchins


2


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,

fr 
James W. Bledsoe
Grievance & Arbitration
Division


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