



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

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  
Jacksonville, FL  
H8N-3W-C 21294

Dear Mr. Hutchins

On January 12, 1989, we met in prearbitration discussion of the above-captioned grievance.

The issue in this grievance is whether management violated the National Agreement when it refused to allow stewards to visit residences of postal customers while on-the-clock.

After reviewing this matter, we mutually agreed that no national interpretive issue is fairly presented in this case. This is an issue suitable for regional determination based on the following:

In accordance with Article 17 of the National Agreement, a steward's request to leave his/her work area to investigate a grievance shall not be unreasonably denied. Subsequent to determining that a non-postal witness possesses relevant information and/or knowledge directly related to the instant dispute under investigation, a steward may be allowed a reasonable amount of time on-the-clock to interview such witness, even if the interview is conducted away from the postal facility. However, each request to interview witnesses off postal premises must be reasonable and viewed on a case-by-case basis. For example, it is not unreasonable for a supervisor and/or steward to telephone the prospective witness to ascertain availability and willingness to be interviewed and, if willing, to establish a convenient time and locale.

Mr. Lawrence G. Hutchins

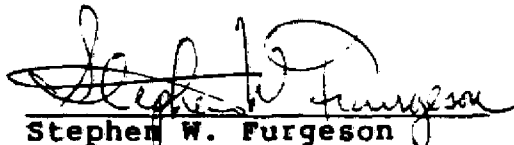
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Accordingly, we agreed to remand this case to the parties at Step 3 for further processing, including arbitration if necessary.

Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter as your acknowledgment of agreement to settle case no. H8N-3W-C 21294 and remove it from the pending national arbitration listing.

Time limits were extended by mutual consent.

Sincerely,



Stephen W. Furgeson  
General Manager  
Grievance and Arbitration  
Division



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

(Date) 1/12/89

Enclosure