



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

January 3, 1989

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

Dear Mr. Hutchins:

I am writing in response to your letter of December 8,  
 regarding:

1. What work activity is described by the term "spreading" and,
2. Does the term "spreading" refer to withdrawal of mail from a hot case.

Item 1

The term spreading mail refers to the work activity of transporting the mail, by whatever vehicle (trays, pouches, etc.) from the incoming section to the carrier cases.

As stated in the Letter of Intent for Regional Instruction 399 in the National Agreement between the U.S. Postal Service and the Mail Handlers Union, the Mail Handlers craft is the primary craft for the transportation of mail. Throughout the descriptions of the operations are the words containerizing and transporting mail. This is what the term spreading refers to in Assistant Postmaster General Mahon's letter.

Item 2

Assistant Postmaster General Mahon's letter pertaining to our position on the issue of spreading mail to carriers in no manner is designed to abate the provisions of Section 116.6 of the M-39 Handbook, entitled "Carrier Withdrawal of Letters and Flats", which addresses the fact that carriers may be authorized to make up to two withdrawals from the distribution cases prior to leaving the office, plus a final clean up sweep as they leave the office.

Mr. Lawrence Hutchins

M-00892

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I hope this clarifies the issue and if you have any questions, feel free to contact Peter A. Sgro of my staff at 268-3824.

Sincerely,

*Anthony J. Vegliante*

Anthony J. Vegliante

General Manager

Programs and Policies Division

Office of Contract Administration



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November 15, 1988

Mr. Vincent R. Sombrotto  
 President  
 National Association of Letter  
 Carriers, AFL-CIO  
 100 Indiana Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, DC 20001-2197

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Dear Vince:

Recently, we have been receiving numerous inquiries from the field regarding the issue of spreading mail to carriers. We have reviewed the appropriate operational documents and relative arbitration awards that have been issued on this matter and the following represents our position:

1. The basic function of transporting mail belongs to the mail handler craft and should be assigned to mail handlers when available and in accordance with Regional Instruction 399.
2. In the absence of mail handlers, no other union has a proprietary right to this work.

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please contact Anthony Vegliante (268-3811) at your convenience.

Sincerely,

*Joseph S. Mahon, Jr.*  
 Joseph S. Mahon, Jr.  
 Assistant Postmaster General

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