



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
 Lynnwood, WA
 H4N-5R-C 44093

Dear Mr. Hutchins:

On December 8, 1988, I met with the NALC Director of City Delivery, Brian Farris, to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The issue in this grievance is whether replacements for Carrier Technicians (T-6) are entitled to higher level pay.

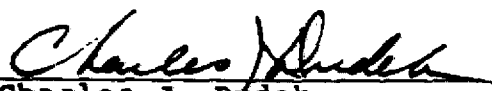
After reviewing this matter, we mutually agreed that no national interpretive issue is fairly presented in this case. This is an issue suitable for regional determination based on the application of the guidelines issued by Senior Assistant Postmaster General Darrell F. Brown on November 5, 1973. (Copy attached)

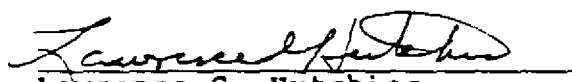
Accordingly, we agreed to remand this case to the parties at Step 3 for further processing, including arbitration if necessary.

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,


 Charles J. Dadek
 Grievance & Arbitration
 Division


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

RECEIVED

FEB 8 1989

(Date) 2/10/89

SENIOR / ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
EMPLOYEE AND LABOR RELATIONS GROUP
Washington, DC 20268

November 5, 1973

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Regional Postmasters General
Employee and Labor Relations

SUBJECT: Article XXV, Higher Level Pay - Carrier
Technician, Level 6 Assignments

The following guidelines will be used in determining whether replacements for absent carrier technicians (T-6) will receive the higher level pay of the T-6 positions:

1. When a carrier technician (T-6) is absent for an extended period and another employee serves the series of 5 routes assigned to the absent T-6, the replacement employee shall be considered as replacing the T-6, and he shall be paid at the T-6 level of pay for the entire time he serves those routes, whether or not he performs all of the duties of the T-6.
2. When a carrier technician's absence is of sufficiently brief duration so that his replacement does not serve the full series of routes assigned to the absent T-6, the replacement employee is not entitled to the T-6 level of pay. In addition, when a T-6 employee is on extended absence, but different carriers serve the different routes assigned to the T-6, those replacements are not entitled to the T-6 level of pay.
3. The foregoing should be implemented in a straight-forward and equitable manner. Thus, for example, an employee who has carried an absent T-6 carrier's routes for four days should not be replaced by another employee on the fifth day merely in order to avoid paying the replacement higher level pay.


Darrell F. Brown