

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE**475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Mr. Thomas Freeman, Jr.
Assistant Director
Maintenance Craft Division
American Postal Workers
Union, AFL-CIO
817 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3399

Re: N. Varitimos
Middlesex-Essex, MA 01888
H4C-1E-C 6349

Dear Mr. Freeman:

On December 6, 1985, we met to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The basic dispute in this grievance concerns whether or not employees who have no leave to cover vacation during the choice vacation period are entitled to the automatic granting of LWOP to cover the absence.

We mutually agreed that this grievance does not fairly present a nationally interpretive dispute. The approval of LWOP under the above circumstances is subject to the provisions of Part 514, ELM. The parties recognize that LWOP may be granted to cover the employee's absence when that employee has no leave to cover vacation during choice vacation period. However, approval of such request for LWOP is a matter of administrative discretion based upon the needs of the employee, the needs of service, and the cost to the service.

Accordingly, the grievance is remanded to Step 3 where those issues of local concern, such as LNU application, past practices, etc., may be addressed.


Mr. Thomas Freeman, Jr.

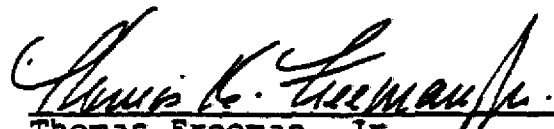
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Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter as your acknowledgment of agreement to remand this case.

Time limits were extended by mutual consent.

Sincerely,


Margaret H. Oliver
Labor Relations Department


Thomas Freeman, Jr.
Assistant Director
Maintenance Craft Division
American Postal Workers
Union, AFL-CIO