M-01096.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE 475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW WASHINGTON DC 20260-4100

LABOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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

> Re: H7N-5N-C 31554 H7N-5N-C 31558 Visalia, CA 93277

Dear Mr. Hutchins:

On September 8, 1992, a prearbitration settlement discussion was held concerning the above-captioned grievances currently pending national arbitration.

After reviewing this matter, we mutually agreed that no national interpretive issue is fairly presented in these cases. The Step 4 decision in Case H1N-5D-C 26954 is applicable to this matter:

The parties at this level agree that under the <u>Weingarten</u> rule, the Employer must provide a union representative to the employee during the course of its investigatory meeting where the employee requests such representation and the employee has a reasonable belief that discussions during the meeting might lead to discipline (against the employee himself).

Whether or not an employee reasonably believes that discipline will result from the investigatory interview is a factual dispute and is suitable for regional determination.

Accordingly, we agreed to remand these cases to the parties at Step 3 for further processing including Regional-level arbitration if necessary.



Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter acknowledging your agreement to remand these cases and withdrawing them from the pending national arbitration listing.

Sincerely,

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Stephen W. Furgeson () General Manager Grievance and Arbitration Division

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

Date 9/16/92

Bnclosure