

LABOR RELATIONS



Mr. Vincent R. Sombrotto
President
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO
Washington, DC 20001-2197

Re: Q90N-4Q-C 96081524
CLASS ACTION
WASHINGTON DC 20260-9998

Dear Mr. Sombrotto:

On September 19, 1996, I discussed the above-captioned grievance with NALC Vice President William H. Young at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The issue in this case deals with bifurcation of cases so that arbitrability issues may be decided prior to the merits of the case being heard.

During our discussion, we agreed that the parties' practice on a national basis has been that the same arbitrator who determined the arbitrability of the case, is scheduled to hear the merits; assuming that the arbitrator in question is still on the appropriate panel and is otherwise available. This practice is to be followed by all field processing centers.

Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this decision as your acknowledgment of agreement to settle this case in accordance with the above.

Sincerely,

Melissa J. Doriger
Labor Relations Specialist
Grievance and Arbitration

Vincent R. Sombrotto
President
National Association of Letter Carriers,
AFL-CIO

Date: 10/31/96

Francis J. Conners
Executive Vice President

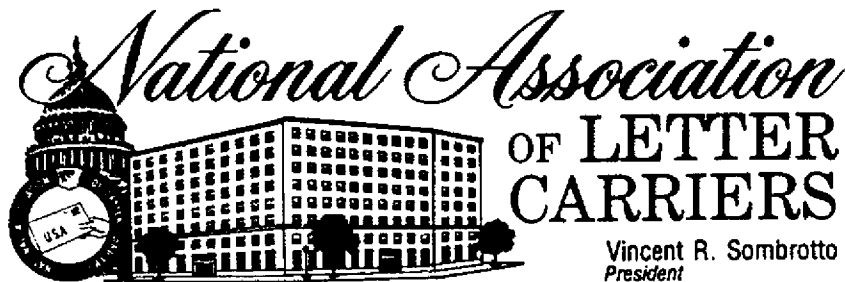
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M-01253

July 15, 1996

S-5840

Q90N-4Q-C-96081524

Mr. Joseph Mahon, Jr.
Vice President Labor Relations
U. S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza
Washington, D.C 20260

Dear Mr. Mahon:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 15, Section 3.D of the National Agreement, I hereby initiate as a grievance at the Step 4 level the dispute between the parties with respect to arbitration scheduling in the Northeast Area.

It has come to our attention that, when cases are bifurcated in order to first resolve issues of arbitrability, your area representatives are refusing to allow arbitrators to retain jurisdiction to hear the grievances on their merits.

This policy violates the provisions of Article 15, Sections 2 and 4 of the National Agreement. Furthermore, it is contrary to the established past practice of the parties at both the national and regional levels.

A Step 4 meeting to discuss this matter should be scheduled as soon as possible. I look forward to your expeditious response.

Sincerely,

Vincent R. Sombrotto
President