

**RECEIVED****APR 19 2001****CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION UNIT
N.A.L.C. WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Mr. Vincent R. Sombrotto
President
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO
100 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Re: F90N-4F-C 95004286
J. Finta
Eureka, CA 95501-9998

Dear Mr. Sombrotto:

Recently, our representatives met in prearbitration discussions of the above-referenced case.

The issue in this grievance is whether Article 27, Employee Claims, is the proper procedure to file a claim for loss or damage to bicycles, or is a bicycle considered a "motor vehicle" and therefore subject to the procedures of the Federal Tort Claims Act.

The parties agreed that Article 27 does not apply to privately owned motor vehicles and the contents thereof. However, we agree that non-motorized bicycles are not considered "privately owned motor vehicles", such as those excluded from the Article 27 procedures. Therefore, a claim for loss or damage to non-motorized bicycles can be made and decided in accordance with the provisions of Article 27.

Based upon the above, we agreed to remand this case to the parties at Step 3 for further processing, and remove it from the national pending arbitration listing.

Handwritten signature of Doug A. Tulino in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Doug A. Tulino
Manager
Labor Relations Policies and
and Programs

Handwritten signature of Vincent R. Sombrotto in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

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

Date: 4-19-2001