

Mailhandler's Raiding Pact Hit by APWU

Andrews Petitions AFL-CIO To Halt Stealing of Jobs

Hearings are expected to start soon on a formal complaint by APWU General President Emmet Andrews to the AFL-CIO charging Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) with union raiding in connection with mailhandler jobs.

Andrews filed the complaint with AFL-CIO President George Meany on the grounds that LIUNA is violating Article XX, Section 3 of the AFL-CIO Constitution in collusion with the U.S. Postal Service.

Andrews called the agreement between the Postal Service and the Mailhandlers' Division of LIUNA "a money-grabbing attempt . . . to steal jobs performed by our higher paid craft and turn them over to lower earning employees . . ."

He said the Mailhandlers were "committing labor fratricide" and "endangering the public interest by disrupting the mails . . ."

TEXT OF COMPLAINT

Here is the text of the Andrews' complaint to President Meany:

Dear Brother Meany:

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the National Executive Board of the American Postal Workers Union on April 26, 1979, our organization hereby charges that the Laborers' International Union of North America is in violation of Article XX, Section 3 of the AFL-CIO Constitution.

Specifically, the American Postal Workers Union charges that the National Post Office Mail Handlers, Watchmen, Messengers and Group Leaders Division of the Laborers' International Union of North America has, by agreement and collusion with the United States Postal Service, sought to obtain work for its members

as to which a long established work relationship has existed with the American Postal Workers Union.

On July 26, 1978, the National Director of the Mail Handlers Division of Laborers' International Union of North America entered into an agreement with the USPS (a copy of which is annexed, together with a memorandum from the National Director to various union officials), in which it was agreed that certain work, which postal clerks, as members of APWU, had customarily performed at numerous postal installations throughout the United States, would henceforth be assigned to Mail Handlers. Acting on such agreement, the USPS, on February 16, 1979, issued Regional Instruction 1085-PO-204, "Mail Processing Work Assignment Guidelines", (a copy of which is enclosed). This document implements the agreement with the Mail Handlers Division referred to above and was issued over the strenuous objections of APWU.

The money-grabbing attempt by the Mail Handlers to steal jobs performed by our higher paid craft and turn them over to lower earning employees, with the shameful connivance of the Postal Service, violates work traditions harkening all the way back through history to George Washington's time.

The Mail Handlers by their cynical efforts are committing labor fratricide. And they endanger the public interest by disrupting the mails while turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to procedures for handling and resolving jurisdictional dispute proceedings.

We call upon you to exercise your authority under Article XX to compel LIUNA to give up its illegal agreement with the Postal Service and to restore APWU work taken from us as the fruit of this dishonorable agreement.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Emmet Andrews
General President

The American Postal Worker



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CONTENTS

June, 1979

From the General Secretary-Treasurer	4
Hallbeck Scholarships Go To Five	5
Way Cleared for Decision on Fired Workers	6
Editorial Page	7
Human Relations Department	8
The APWU and You	9
State Of Our Union	10
COPA Honor Roll	12
Hospital Plan	13
Do You See Each News Service Issue?	14
Letters To The Editor	14
The Way It Is	16
Organizing	18
Motor Vehicle Division	20
Maintenance Division	21
Dougherty Reports on European Worker Tour	22
Special Delivery Division	23
Postal Press Association	25
Auxiliary	27
Local Notes	28

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