February 27, 1984

LR100: FXJacquatte: nb: 4110

Implementation of Regional Instruction →399

Pr. Paul V. Tartablia Manager Grievance Pranch Northeast Region

M15C 399

This is in response to your letter of January 31, concerning the application of Regional Instruction 300 at the New Maven, Connecticut, Post Office.

Your approach to the attrition situation in the Incoming Cityside Section appears to go beyond that contemplated by Fart II.D. of RI 399. An increase in volume could be handled by assigning clarks to the operation for the percent of volume increase. However, mail handlers should be removed only via attrition within the section.

With repard to the Linear Sorter, the equipment being used is of less significance than the operation being performed. It arpears that the union may be relying on item 6 of Operation 050/055 which designates the clerk craft as primary. This operation anticipates a letter/flat/SPR distribution effort; however, the alternative of mechanized sorting of sacks, pouches, and outside parcels (item 8, Operation 210/239) precludes distribution of other than outside parcels. Them shifting the priority mail to the linear sorter, the provisions of Article 7 and Part II.A. and B. of RI 399 would control. It will be necessary to estimate volume and throughout time at the time the decision is made to divert the priority mail. If such diversion is fracuent, "ail Processing should be reviewing the operation for the purpose of redefining their staffing requirements.

William J. Downes, Director Office of Programs & Policies Labor Relations Department

bcc: J. Gildea, LR1 2/14/84 (File RI 399)