

*Handwritten: 2-21/1983 PV - Section 512.2*



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260

March 4, 1983

Mr. William Burrus  
Executive Vice President  
American Postal Workers  
Union, AFL-CIO  
817 14th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3399

Dear Mr. Burrus:

This is in regard to your February 25 letter concerning the interpretation of part 512.2 of Handbook M-54, Letter Sorting Machines.

If a vacant duty assignment is not reverted and is not being held pursuant to Article 12, and is not otherwise filled by a full-time regular employee, the senior machine-qualified part-time flexible employee should be converted to full-time in accordance with the terms of the USPS-APWU/NALC National Agreement and section 512.2 of the M-54 Handbook.

Under the circumstances, it does not appear that an interpretive dispute exists.

Sincerely,

*Handwritten signature of James C. Gildea*

James C. Gildea  
Assistant Postmaster General  
Labor Relations Department

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OFFICE OF  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



# American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

817 Fourteenth Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 842-4246

WILLIAM BURRUS  
Executive Vice President

February 25, 1983

Mr. James C. Gildea  
Assistant Postmaster General  
Labor Relations Department  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Mr. Gildea:

The American Postal Workers Union interprets provisions of the M 54 Handbook, Chapter 5, Subsection 512.2 as requiring the employer to convert the senior machine-qualified part-time flexible employee to full time when full-time machine vacancies have not been filled through the authorized bidding procedures.

I have been advised that postal facilities throughout the country are not filling ZMT vacancies via these provisions and are merely absorbing the positions through the utilization of part-time flexibles.

The union recognizes the rights of the employer to withhold vacancies as per the provisions of Article 12, but interprets the above mentioned provisions as requiring the conversion of part-time employees in all other circumstances.

Please respond so that the union can determine whether an interpretive dispute exists between the parties in the interpretation and application of the language referenced above.

Sincerely,

William Burrus,  
Executive Vice President

WB:mc

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