



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

Douglas C. Holbrook
Secretary-Treasurer
(202) 842-4215

December 18, 1987

Dear Mr. Fritsch:

Pursuant to provisions of Article 15 of the 1987 National Agreement the American Postal Workers Union submits to step 4 a dispute between the parties over the interpretation of eligibility for retreat rights. The Union disagrees with the employers position as explained in correspondence of December 15, 1987 which applies retreat rights solely to "employees who would have been otherwise eligible to bid."

The language referenced by the employer is implied only as it relates to employees excessed to the needs of a section. The language provides that "failure to bid for the first available vacancy will end such retreat right."

Reassignments to other installations after making reassignments within the installation provides that reassigned employees "shall be entitled at the time of such reassignment to file a written request to be returned to the first vacancy in the level in the craft or occupational group in the installation from which assigned."

Reduction in the number of employees in an installation other than by attrition provides "the employee shall be returned at the first opportunity to the craft from which assigned."

These provisions place no restrictions on the right of an employee to return to their former facility of craft other than those specifically stated.

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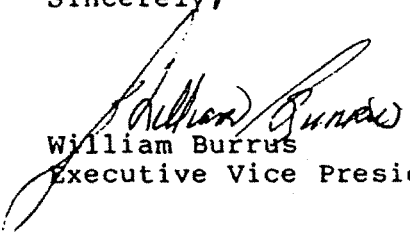
Romualdo "Willie" Sanchez
Northeastern Region

Archie Salisbury
Southern Region

The Union therefore disagrees with the Employer's interpretation as it relates to excessing from a craft or facility.

Please contact my office to arrange discussion of the grievance.

Sincerely,



William Burrus
Executive Vice President

Thomas A. Fritsch
Assistant Postmaster General
Labor Relations Department
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-4100

WB;rb