



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Labor Relations Department
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-4100

December 15, 1987

Mr. William Burrus
American Postal Workers
Union, AFL-CIO
1300 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-4107

Dear Mr. Burrus:

This is in response to your letter of November 23 regarding retreat rights under the provisions of Article 12 of the National Agreement.

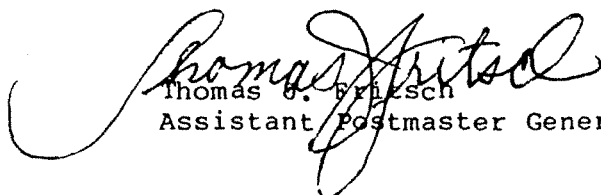
Employees who are involuntarily reassigned and are given an advance notice of not less than 60 days receive retreat rights. Any craft employee who voluntarily accepts reassignment to another craft or occupational group, another branch of the Postal Service, or another installation loses retreat rights.

The language throughout Article 12 clearly establishes that involuntarily reassigned employees, who would have been otherwise eligible to bid, are those employees who maintain entitlement to retreat rights.

The enclosed notice submitted for review is to an employee who volunteered to change his craft subsequent to reassignment and is therefore not entitled to retreat rights, since he would not otherwise be eligible to bid.

Should you have any further questions regarding the foregoing, please contact Harvey White at 268-3831.

Sincerely,


Thomas G. Friesch
Assistant Postmaster General

Enclosure