

cc: Messrs. Newman
Morgen
Jordan
Wolff



EMPLOYEE AND LABOR RELATIONS GROUP
Washington, DC 20260

June 15, 1979

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JUN 20 1979

INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS

Re: Jurisdiction Committee Arbitration

Dear Mr. Andrews:

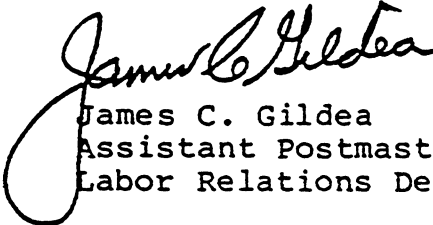
This is in response to your letter of May 31, 1979.

As I informed you in my letter of May 24, we believe that the language of the Memorandum of Understanding is clear. When a dispute arises, it is to be considered by the national level Committee on Jurisdiction; and the Committee has 180 days after it first meets in which to attempt to resolve the dispute or disputes. In our view, your January 9, 1979, letter set forth disputed work assignments which were first considered by the Committee in meetings on February 16, 1979, and subsequently. Those meetings did result in progress in resolving matters in issue between the parties, as contemplated by the drafters of the Memorandum. As a result, the Postal Service is issuing shortly some revisions to its February 16, 1979, Regional Instruction which incorporate changes requested by the APWU in those meetings. I enclose a copy for your information. This demonstrates, if any proof were really needed, that your union has hardly been rendered "impotent" by its own agreement to discuss matters before resorting to third party resolution of the disputed assignments.

I must, however, take exception to those characterizations in your letter which accuse the Postal Service of "decimating" and "destroying" the clerk craft. Such rhetoric is not only totally untrue, but it is simply not helpful in resolving the issues which you have raised. For its part, while the Postal Service believes that its interpretation of the Memorandum of

Understanding is correct, we are willing to arbitrate the threshold question whether your demand for arbitration on the merits is premature, as we feel it is. We therefore propose that the question of arbitrability be heard on the next open national arbitrator hearing date.

Sincerely,



James C. Gildea
Assistant Postmaster General
Labor Relations Department

Enclosure

Mr. Emmet Andrews
General President
American Postal Workers Union,
AFL-CIO
817 14th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20015