

LABOR RELATIONS


 VIA CERTIFIED
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May 10, 2000

Mr. William Burrus
 Executive Vice President
 American Postal Workers
 Union, AFL-CIO
 1300 L Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20005-4128



Dear Mr. Burrus:

This letter is in further response to my April 19 correspondence regarding your request for a national memorandum of understanding (MOU) for union officials' access into postal facilities.

We do not feel a national MOU is necessary or appropriate. Article 23 specifically states, "Upon reasonable notice to the Employer, duly authorized representatives of the Union shall be permitted to enter postal installations for the purpose of performing and engaging in official union duties and business related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement." We have established a long-standing procedure for clearance of visits through this office. A telephone call of notification to any labor specialist on my staff to arrange clearance several days before a visit has been a long-standing practice without incident.

Be assured that we do not have any objections to union officials entering postal facilities, however, the national procedure must be adhered to for security reasons and also not to interrupt the work of our employees.

We apologize for any inconveniences encountered when officers were denied admittance into the Fayetteville facility. Unfortunately, there were a series of miscommunications in that instance. It is not felt that this incident necessitates the creation of an MOU.

If there are any questions or if you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at 268-3811.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Sgro
 Manager
 Contract Administration