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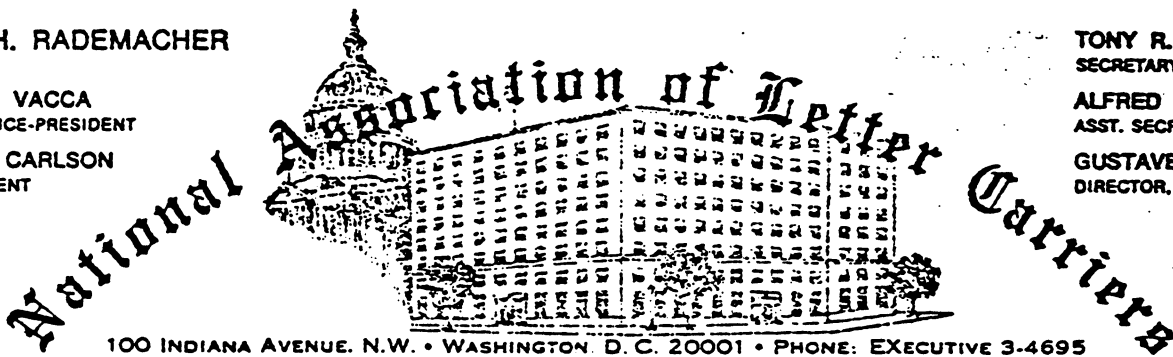
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January 30, 1976

Mr. James C. Gildea
United States Postal Service
Washington, D.C. 20260

FEB 2 1976

Mr. Emmett Andrews
American Postal Workers Union
817 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Lonnie Johnson
Laborers International Union of
North America
905 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Mr. Lester Miller
National Rural Letter Carriers Association
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Gentlemen:

The meeting of the standing national level Committee on Jurisdiction held on January 19, 1976 left me with serious doubts that the Committee will be able fully to accomplish the objectives which I believe were contemplated in the September 4, 1975 Memorandum of Understanding which created it. The National Association of Letter Carriers believes those objectives are important, and should be vigorously and purposefully pursued by all parties to that Memorandum. The purpose of this letter is to offer some suggestions as to how this might be accomplished.

I understood the general consensus of the Committee, as expressed at our January 19 meeting, to be that, with the exception of the existing dispute between the APWU and the Laborers, the Committee has no pending business, and will have none unless and until one of the member unions specifically identifies one or more additional claimed disputes in the future.

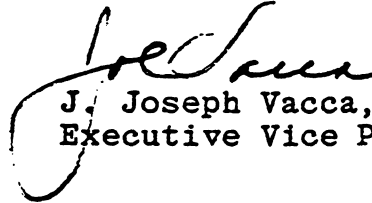
As I indicated at that meeting, I read the Memorandum of Understanding somewhat differently. The second full paragraph of the Memorandum requires each union to prepare and submit "a written description of the scope of the duties it believes are properly assignable to employees it represents," which each of the unions has done. And while the Memorandum does not explicitly so provide, I believe our Agreement also clearly contemplated that the Postal Service make a similar effort, providing the Committee with a description of the craft responsibilities which it believes each of the Unions currently has.

The Memorandum next provides that the "Committee shall meet to identify those duties over which no dispute as to jurisdiction exists, and to resolve conflicting claims of jurisdiction over duties made by any of the parties." It seems clear to me that this language envisioned an affirmative effort by the Committee, comparing the written descriptions of claimed jurisdiction which each union prepared with each other, and with the Postal Service's description of existing jurisdictions, to identify all areas where the claims of any two or more unions now conflict, and to arrange the resolution of those conflicts in accordance with the negotiation/arbitration procedure spelled out in the Memorandum.

I would suggest, therefore, as the next step in this process, that the Postal Service promptly supply the Committee with a description of the currently existing craft responsibilities, and as soon as possible thereafter, that each union analyze the written jurisdictional statements submitted by the Postal Service and the other unions, and identify as to each the areas where there appear to be conflicting claims. Those analyses, taken together, should permit the Committee readily to identify areas in dispute and dispose quickly of claims where the dispute is more apparent than real. We would then be in a position to face, and attempt to resolve, whatever genuine jurisdictional disputes exist among us.

I hope that you will all give prompt and thoughtful consideration to the views I have expressed here, and that the Committee can meet again at an early date to consider how we should proceed.

Sincerely,



J. Joseph Vacca,
Executive Vice President

JJV:clg
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cc: Mr. Bernard Cushman