



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

May 13, 1988

Mr. Kenneth D. Wilson
Director, Clerk Craft Division
American Postal Workers
Union, AFL-CIO
1300 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-4107

Dear Mr. Wilson:

On May 3 we met to discuss issues regarding Regional Instruction (RI) 399. In this meeting Cliff Guffy, Assistant Director, Clerk Craft, expanded on the concerns of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), in regard to Operation 110-129 and 180-189 provisions of RI 399.

Specifically, it was requested that a determination be made by management on the following:

1. Whether all work which involves pouching of mail should be assigned to the clerk craft.
2. Whether all separations made by three- and five-digit ZIP information should be considered distribution, and subsequently assigned to the clerk craft.
3. Whether basic, local/out-of-town splits where limited initial separations are made by ZIP CODE and city and state address information to expedite subsequent distribution or dispatching and pouching operations should be assigned to the clerk craft.
4. Management's position on the work being performed on the docks which the APWU alleges is distribution.
5. The change of crafts in the Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center.

To address the issues in items 1 through 3, the U.S. Postal Service must reiterate the position which we have taken on how craft jurisdiction is determined in postal operations.

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In addition to giving foremost consideration to the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations, the criteria for craft determination in operations 110-129 and 180-189 continues to be the primary function of the operation. Each operation is designed with a primary purpose and this determines craft assignment.

The issues which the APWU raised, specifically the type of container (pouch) and separations made by ZIP CODE are not considerations for craft determination.

Items 4 and 5 were presented without specificity and cannot be addressed until such time that the facts of the situations are fully presented.

As previously suggested, the U.S. Postal Service offers the opportunity to meet and discuss problems which arise in the application of RI 399.

I am requesting that representatives of the American Postal Workers Union attend a joint meeting with the Laborers' International Union of North America, Mail Handlers Division, and the U.S. Postal Service. A mutual date and time will be scheduled accordingly.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at 268-3811.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Vegliante
General Manager
Programs and Policies Division
Office of Contract Administration