



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

September 12, 1979

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INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS

Forrest M. Newman
Director, Industrial Relations
American Postal Workers Union
817 14th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Newman:

On August 1, you wrote requesting copies of implementing instructions incident to Regional Instruction 399 from all the post offices in the Central, Eastern, Southern, and Northeast Regions. You stated that your reason for requiring such information was to continue preparation for the jurisdictional arbitration dispute between the clerk and mail handler crafts.

Before determining whether or not to comply with your request, we must know specifically what issues are to be arbitrated under Article XV of the Agreement for which this information is sought.

On April 10, 1979, APWU President Emmet Andrews, in a letter to Acting Assistant Postmaster General John D. Mitchell, stated that the Union wished to frame specific issues to be arbitrated in the proceeding now scheduled before Arbitrator Gamser on October 25 and 26, 1979. On April 18, Mr. Mitchell responded, identifying Postal Service designees and asking that the Union representative contact them. We have yet to hear from a Union representative with regard to those issues. We therefore assume that the APWU has decided not to arbitrate specific issues; and that, if anything is arbitrable at all, the only possible issue is the promulgation of Regional Instruction No. 399. If that is the case, we cannot see the relevance of your request for information.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Gildea
Assistant Postmaster General
Labor Relations Department

cc: Emmet Andrews