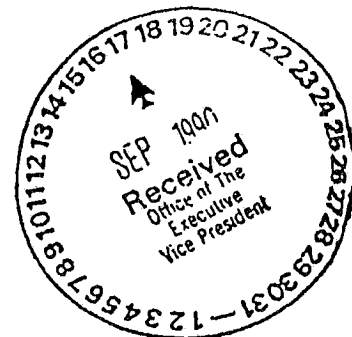




UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Labor Relations Department
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-4100



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

Re: H7C-NA-C 61
W. Burrus
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Burrus:

On January 30, 1990, we met to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The issue in this grievance is whether Article 10.6 of the National Agreement authorizes employees to use leave and LWOP simultaneously for short term absences.

It is our position that no national interpretive issue involving the terms and conditions of the National Agreement is fairly presented in this case. However, inasmuch as the union did not agree, the following represents the decision of the Postal Service on the particular fact circumstances involved.

Article 10.6 was added to the National Agreement as a result of the 1987 negotiations. The addition had two specific purposes:

1. To permit employees on extended absence to stretch available leave over a long period of time to keep medical benefit eligibility and Article 6 protection.
2. To forbid employees from using approved leave in conjunction with LWOP for the purpose of receiving holiday pay.