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OFFICE OF THE
 ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
 LABOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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 OCT 2 1990

Mr. George McKeithen
 Director
 Special Delivery Messenger
 Division
 American Postal Workers
 Union, AFL-CIO
 1300 L Street, N.W.
 Washington, DC 20005-4128

GEORGE N. MCKEITHEN, DIRECTOR
 SPECIAL DELIVERY DIVISION
 SUBJECT 15

STEP 4 IMPACT OF

Re: H7C-1J-C 369
 Class Action
 New Haven, CT 06511

Dear Mr. McKeithen:

This decision supersedes the denial issued on September 11, 1990 which contained erroneous language.

On July 18, 1990, we met to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

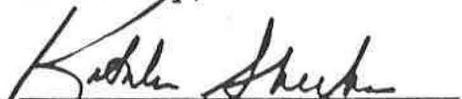
The issue in this grievance is whether management violated the National Agreement by utilizing letter carriers to deliver Express Mail to associate offices.

In the past this issue or similar issues have been regularly remanded as not interpretive; however, in this case, management considers the issue interpretive in that at least one regional arbitrator has issued a decision which contradicts the overwhelming weight of arbitral precedent, the clear language of prior Step 4's, and the clear language of Section 242 of the Methods Handbook, DM-201 (Arbitrator Germano: N7V-1M-C 13426). This arbitration award is misleading and may cause confusion in the field. Therefore, management believes the issue should be addressed at the national level.

The Union failed to show that management's decision to use letter carriers in situations such as those presented in this case was improper. Accordingly, the grievance is denied.

Time limits were extended by mutual consent.

Sincerely,


 Kathleen Sheehan
 Grievance & Arbitration
 Division



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Date 10-2-90