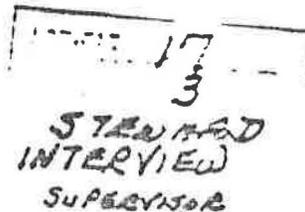




UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260



December 10, 1982

Mr. Kenneth D. Wilson
Assistant Director
Clerk Division
American Postal Workers
Union, AFL-CIO
817 - 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Art. XV 11

AG-C-2982

Re: Class Action
Canton, OH 44711
H8C-4E-C 28547

Dear Mr. Wilson:

On November 1, 1982, we met to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The matters presented as well as the applicable contractual provisions have been reviewed and given careful consideration.

We mutually agreed that there was no interpretive dispute between the parties at the national level as to the meaning and intent of Article 17 of the National Agreement as it relates to rights of union stewards to interview witnesses.

Article 17, Section 3, of the National Agreement stipulates, in part, that stewards "shall have the right to interview the aggrieved employee(s), supervisors and witnesses during working hours. Such requests shall not be unreasonably denied."

It is the understanding of the parties that requests to interview witnesses must be reasonable as to the number required and specific as to who is required. Also their involvement or input must be relative to the dispute. From the information in this file, we are unable to determine whether the steward's request for witnesses was reasonable, specific and relevant. This dispute can best be processed at the lower levels.

Accordingly, as further agreed, this case is hereby remanded to step 3 for further processing by the parties at that level.