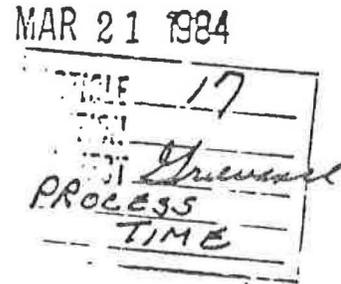


UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260

Mr. James Connors  
Assistant Director  
Clerk Craft Division  
American Postal Workers Union  
AFL-CIO  
817 14th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3399



Re: A. Gagnon  
Hartford, CT 06106  
H1C-1J-C 20537

Dear Mr. Connors:

On February 24, 1984, we met to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The grievance concerns whether or not the grievant, a union steward, was properly denied time to process a grievance. In this particular case, the grievant had asked for 2 hours and management had allowed 1 hour and 40 minutes.

We mutually agreed that this grievance does not fairly present an interpretive dispute. Normally, the steward determines the estimated time he/she will need to process a grievance. However, the local supervisor may set a specified time to begin and end a period of grievance handling activity due to service needs. If additional time is necessary, the steward should discuss the need with the supervisor. Additional time may be granted in conjunction with the previously specified time or at a later time or date. The parties acknowledge that any request for grievance handling time or denial of that request is subject to rule of reason based upon fact circumstances existant at the local level.

Accordingly, this grievance is remanded to Step 3 for further processing at that level.