



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

March 18, 1983

Mr. John A. Morgen
Director, Clerk Division
American Postal Workers
Union, AFL-CIO
817 - 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3399

ARTICLE	28
SECTION	
SUBJECT	
DEBT	
COLLECTION	

Re: P. Owens
West New York, NJ 07093
E1C-1N-C 5572

Dear Mr. Morgen:

On several occasions, we met to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

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

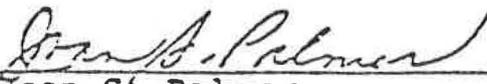
The question in this grievance is whether management violated Article 28 of the 1981 National Agreement by its method of recovering postal funds. It was determined that the grievant was financially responsible for a shortage in her accountability. Local management deducted the debt from the grievant's paycheck without her consent, and issued a money order for the balance.

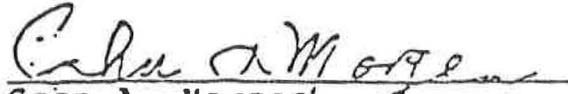
During our discussions, we agreed to resolve this matter based on our mutual understanding of the meaning and intent of Article 28, Section 4, of the National Agreement and Section 564, Fiscal Handbook, Series F-1. Specifically, an attempt must be made to collect money demands on a voluntary basis; however, absent an employee's voluntary agreement to liquidate a debt, the Postal Service shall initiate involuntary payroll deductions, regardless of the amount owed, through the Postal Data Center. Involuntary collections shall not exceed 20% of the employee's biweekly gross pay.

We further agreed that, in lieu of a money order, the grievant shall be issued a treasury check (symbol 9500) for the entire net amount of pay.

Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter as your acknowledgment to resolve this case.

Sincerely,


Joan S. Palmer
Labor Relations Department


John A. Morgen
Director
Clerk Division
American Postal Workers
Union, AFL-CIO