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MAR 23 1984

ARTICLE	10
SECTION	
SUBJECT	Charles Paul
	LWOP

Mr. Thomas Freeman, Jr.
Assistant Director
Maintenance Division
American Postal Workers
Union, AFL-CIO
817 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3399

Re: P. Guertin
Manchester, NH 03103
H1C-1K-C 5443

Dear Mr. Freeman:

On January 17, 1984, we met to discuss the above-captioned grievance at the fourth step of our contractual grievance procedure.

The basic dispute in this grievance concerns whether or not employees who have no leave to cover vacation during the choice vacation period are entitled to the automatic granting of LWOP to cover the absence.

We mutually agreed that this grievance does not fairly present a nationally interpretive dispute. The approval of LWOP under the above circumstances is subject to the provisions of Part 514, ELM. The parties recognize that LWOP may be granted to cover the employee's absence when that employee has no leave to cover vacation during choice vacation period. However, approval of such request for LWOP is a matter of administrative discretion based upon the needs of the employee, the needs of service, and the cost to the service.

Accordingly, the grievance is remanded to Step 3 where those issues of local concern, such as LMU application, past practices, etc., may be addressed.