

Award No. 551

Docket No. 539

2-Erie-MA-'41

**NATIONAL RAILROAD ADJUSTMENT BOARD
SECOND DIVISION**

The Second Division consisted of the regular members and in addition Referee William E. Helander when award was rendered.

PARTIES TO DISPUTE:

**SYSTEM FEDERATION NO. 100, RAILWAY EMPLOYEES'
DEPARTMENT, A. F. OF L. (MACHINISTS)**

ERIE RAILROAD COMPANY

DISPUTE: CLAIM OF EMPLOYEES: That the practice of instructing employes to take physical examinations be discontinued and that Frank Morris, machinist, Hornell roundhouse, be compensated for time lost when he was ordered to visit chief surgeon at Cleveland, Ohio, to undergo a physical examination.

EMPLOYEES' STATEMENT OF FACTS: On October 13, 1939 Frank Morris, a machinist in the roundhouse at Hornell, N. Y., was sent to Cleveland, Ohio for a physical examination by the company physician of the Erie Railroad Company.

POSITION OF EMPLOYEES: That Award No. 368, Docket No. 350, of the National Railroad Adjustment Board, Second Division, was violated by the Erie Railroad Company when Frank Morris, machinist, was forced to go to Cleveland for a physical examination.

That Award No. 368, above referred to, is applicable to this case and reads as follows:

“DISPUTE: CLAIM OF EMPLOYEES: That the practice of compulsory physical examination among the mechanical department employes be discontinued and * * *”

“AWARD: Claim in respect to compulsory physical examination sustained.”

That the Erie Railroad Company violated this award when they compelled Frank Morris to submit to a physical examination; that Frank Morris is entitled to such compensation as he may have lost due to this compulsory physical examination, under Rule 22 (c) which reads as follows:

“Employes disciplined by suspension or dismissal and found blameless will be reinstated and reimbursed for any wage loss offered by them.”

Therefore, the following Exhibits A—B—C—D—E are submitted to show that every effort has been made to settle this dispute on the Erie property and that it has been properly handled and progressed with the Erie manage-

3. Machinist Morris was examined in accord with rules governing the determination of physical and educational qualification of employes, which rules have been in effect for many years.
4. When Machinist Morris was physically examined at Hornell, New York on January 17, 1938, it was found that he had hypertension and was otherwise unfit physically, and was informed that his condition required medical treatment.
5. This request is for a new rule which is not within the jurisdiction of the Second Division, National Railroad Adjustment Board.

FINDINGS: The Second Division of the Adjustment Board, upon the whole record and all the evidence, finds that:

The carrier or carriers and the employe or employes involved in this dispute are respectively carrier and employe within the meaning of the Railway Labor Act, as approved June 21, 1934.

This Division of the Adjustment Board has jurisdiction over the dispute involved herein.

The parties to said dispute were given due notice of hearing thereon.

These findings apply to the following dockets:

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523	533	539
527	534	555
		556

The question here is over the claimed right of the carrier to require physical examinations after employment.

There is no provision in this agreement providing for re-examination of these employes. Moreover, there is nothing in the record or in the history of the controversy between the employes and the carrier on this question that would indicate that the employes were ever willing that such a practice be adopted.

Though it has been held in general that physical examinations may not be required of these employes, there must be some limit to the contention that the carrier cannot require such examinations under any circumstances. It would not be reasonable to contend that there are no circumstances in which it may not be required.

A change in the employe's condition of such a nature as to be obvious and likely to subject not only such employe but fellow employes to much hazard, would give the carrier the right to investigate to determine if his condition is such as actually to be hazardous. It does not embrace the right to examine for mere inroads of age.

Where a serious accident has occurred, or a serious illness experienced, such as to make it apparent to anyone that the man's condition has so changed as to make it probable that his retention or resumption of work would constitute a serious hazard, it is but reasonable to assume that the carrier has the right to protect itself and fellow employes.

This does not give the right to the carrier to insist on an examination before returning to service of a furloughed employe or an employe on leave of absence without some other reason as stated in this opinion.

Morris was qualified for work by the chief surgeon on December 9, 1938.

Morris should be paid for time lost caused by examination of October 13, 1939.

AWARD

Claim sustained.

**NATIONAL RAILROAD ADJUSTMENT BOARD
By Order of Second Division**

**ATTEST: J. L. Mindling
Secretary**

Dated at Chicago, Illinois, this 22nd Day of January, 1941.