

NATIONAL RAILROAD ADJUSTMENT BOARD

THIRD DIVISION

Award Number 24441  
Docket Number CL-24237

Ida Klaus, Referee

PARTIES TO DISPUTE: (Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks,  
( Freight Handlers, Express and Station **Employees**  
(Chicago, **Milwaukee**, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company

STATEMENT OF CLAIM: Claim of the System **Committee** of the Brotherhood (GL-9474) that:

1) Carrier violated the Clerks' Rules Agreement in Seniority District No. 3 when it arbitrarily reduced forces by abolishing positions starting at 11:59 p.m., February 29, 1980 and continuing to April 18, 1980 without giving the employes affected thereby "not less than five (5) working days advance notice" nor did it issue a standard permanent abolishment notice until April 18, 1980.

2) Carrier shall now be required to compensate all employes affected by the **temporary** suspension of their positions an additional eight (8) hours pay at the rate of their assigned **position** which was abolished, or at their protected rate, whichever is greater, starting either on March 1, 1980 or on the date their respective positions were temporarily abolished, and for each workday until their positions were permanently abolished as of 11:59 p.m. April 18, 1980.

**NOTE:** Some of the **Claimants** and positions held are listed in Attachment A.

Where positions are not listed and/or where the occupants of **positions** are not listed in Attachment A, same to be determined by joint check of **Carrier's** records.

3) Carrier shall be required to compensate all those employes who were displaced by employes whose positions were temporarily abolished as shown in Attachment A, an additional eight (8) hours pay at the rate of their **assigned** positions, or their protected rate whichever is greater, starting either on March 1, 1980 or on the date they were affected, and for each workday until April 19, 1980.

**NOTE:** The employes and **monetary** wage due those employes displaced by **employes** whose **positions** were abolished to be **determined** by joint check of payroll and other necessary records.

OPINION OF BOARD: In this claim the Organization asserts that the Carrier violated the Agreement by failing to give **five** working days advance notice to employes in Seniority District No. 3 of the abolishment of their positions starting on February 29, 1980. The Carrier responds that **it** was not required to give advance notice.

The positions were abolished under a court-ordered embargo issued on February 25, 1980 (Order No. 290-A). The background and provisions of the order

are described in detail in the Board's opinion in **Award No. 24440** relating to employees in Seniority District No. 1 represented by the Organization.

The attachment to the claim shows the following facts as ascertained by the Organization: **Most** of the positions were abolished on February 29, 1980, by Carrier-designated "emergency" force reduction notices, dated **February 26**, and supplemented on February 27, 1980. **Six** other positions were abolished on March 15, 1980, by similar notices dated March 5, 1980. It further appears from the claim that abolishment of a total of six other positions took place **on March 4**, March 31, and April 15, 1980. No notice time for the last three dates is indicated in the record. **The** claim letter was dated April 28, 1980, was sent by certified mail, and was received on April 30, 1980.

This claim is identical in basic respects with that made in **Award No. 24440**. It alleges a violation of Rule **12(a)** of the Clerks' Agreement by an asserted failure to give "not less than five (5) working days advance notice" to "affected" employees of the abolishment of their positions. It seeks compensation for them from the date of the force-reduction notices until the issuance of a standard permanent abolishment notice and appends a list of some positions and of the names of **some incumbents** (Item No. 2). It seeks similar **compensation** for those who were displaced by employees whose positions were abolished (Item No. 3). It also requests a joint check of **Carrier** records to identify unnamed employees under Items No. 2 and No. 3.

The Carrier's response is also identical in all essential respects **with** that submitted in Award No. **24440**. **Stated** in **broad terms**, its challenge **to** the **claim** is that: **(1)** It is time-barred under Rule **36**. **(2)** It is invalid as to unnamed and unidentified employees. **(3)** It improperly seeks a joint check of the Carrier's records. **(4)** It **makes** an improper request for compensation **in** the nature of a "penalty".

Beyond the jurisdictional-procedural arguments, the Carrier defends the substance of its action on the **ground** that it was relieved of the advance notice obligation because the court-ordered **embargo** created "emergency conditions" within the meaning of the exception to Rule **12(a)**.

On thorough analysis of the record before it, and for the reasons fully stated in Award **No. 24440**, the Board finds as follows:

1. The claim is not barred under Rule **36**, as it was \*presented" in timely fashion. It is reasonable to assume from its certification **number** that it was mailed simultaneously with a similar **timely** claim relating to another seniority district.

2. Unnamed employees have been adequately identified as occupants of the positions listed in the attachment to the claim. **They** are deemed included in Item No. 2 of the claim and are **entitled** to be appropriately compensated for any monetary loss they may have suffered by reason of any violation of **the** Rule **12(a)** notice requirement as to them. It is reasonable to allow a joint check of the Carrier's records to ascertain their identity.

3. **Unnamed** occupants of positions not listed (Item No. 2) and individuals who assertedly my have been displaced by employes whose positions were abolished (Item No. 3) are not adequately identified and are not deemed to be included in the claim. **They** are not entitled to any compensatory award, and a joint check of the Carrier's records to find **and** identify them is unwarranted. The claim as to them (Item No. 3) must be dismissed.

4. The exception to Rule **12(a)** does not apply to the facts presented, as no emergency has been shown to exist under the exception. Accordingly, the Carrier violated Rule **12(a)** by failing to give employes properly encompassed within the claim **no** less than five working days notice of the abolishment of their **positions**. Item No. 1 should be sustained.

With respect to the remedy appropriate to the violation found, for the reasons fully stated in Award No. **24440**, the **Board concludes as follows:**

1. Each **employee** deemed in finding numbered 2, above, to be included in the **claim** who received less than five working days advance notice of the abolishment of his or her position is entitled to be **compensated** for each working **day**, up to five days, for which he/she was not given such notice, **at** the rate of his/her assigned position or at his/her protected rate, whichever is greeter.

2.. There is no rational basis for compensating employes whose positions were abolished for each workday until the date of issuance of the standard permanent abolishment notice.

3. Employes referred to in finding numbered 3, above, **are** not entitled to any remedy.

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

That the parties waived oral hearing;

**That** the Carrier and the Employes involved in this dispute are respectively Carrier and Employes within the meaning of the Railway Labor Act, as approved June 21, **1934**;

That this Division of the Adjustment Board has jurisdiction over the dispute involved herein; and

10 That the Agreement was violated.

A W A R D

Claim disposed of in accordance with the Opinion.

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

Attest: Acting Executive Secretary  
National Railroad Adjustment Board

By *Rosemarie Brasch*  
Rosemarie Brasch - Administrative Assistant

Dated et Chicago, Illinois, this 29th day of **June 1983**.

