

AWARD NO. 250  
Case No. TCU-13-W

SPECIAL BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT NO. 605

PARTIES ) Portland Terminal Railroad Company  
TO THE ) and  
DISPUTE ) Transportation-Communication Employees Union

QUESTION  
AT ISSUE:

With respect to Article I, Section 1, is an employee a protected employee who completed the filing of all the required forms for employment application, passed all the required examinations, and was accepted for employment by the Carrier on or before October 1, 1962?

OPINION

OF BOARD: The issue in this case is whether an employment relationship commences when one completes his application form and is fingerprinted or when he actually goes to work for Carrier.

On October 1, 1962, Claimant had not yet begun actual work. He had applied for employment on September 26, and was examined by the Company's physicians and approved on that date, subject to reading of his X-rays. The X-rays were approved the following day. On September 28, he wrote to his then employer resigning effective 11:59 P.M. September 30, 1962. He completed his application for employment and was fingerprinted on October 1, 1962. He first performed service for Carrier on October 4, 1962, acquiring a seniority date of October 4. Section 1 of the February 7, 1965, Agreement provides that to be a protected employee one must have two or more years of employment relationship as of October 1, 1964.

On October 1, 1962, neither employee nor Carrier had any obligation to one another. Neither had reason to believe that a relationship had been established beyond that of applicant

and prospective employer. Claimant could have decided not to go to work for Carrier after all, and Carrier could have decided not to put him to work. Carrier owed Claimant nothing at that point. He had not begun to work and was not yet an employee to whom anything was due until October 4.

An employment relationship is not created by the filing of an application. Whether or not a stronger bond would be created by verbal "acceptance" of the application is immaterial here, since this record does not reveal when Carrier made the final review of the completed application and approved it. That may well have occurred after October 1.

Certainly going on the payroll by performing service denotes the existence of an employment relationship. Whether or not there are other methods of establishing it prior to the start of actual work need not be explored in this case, since an individual's activities in going through the formalities to obtain a position is insufficient to establish that he has commenced the kind of "employment relationship" which the parties contemplated in Article I, Section 1.

To hold otherwise would raise serious questions, for it is conceivable that people may apply for employment, be interviewed and examined, etc., and not be put to work for substantially long periods of time afterwards, whether or not they continue to be employed elsewhere. In such cases, it must be shown that there is some nexus creating a genuine employment relationship as that term is used in the Agreement. None was shown in this case.

Consequently, it must be held that Claimant did not establish an employment relationship until October 4, 1962, when he first performed compensated service for Carrier. He therefore lacks the two-year relationship necessary to qualify under the February 7, 1965, Agreement.

A W A R D

The answer to the Question is No.

  
Milton Friedman  
Neutral Member

Dated: JULY 8, 1971  
Washington, D. C.