

REVIEW COMMITTEE DECISION

Review Committee File Number 240
San Joaquin Division Grievance Number 153

Subject of Grievance

The grievance arose following the assignment of a Senior Electric Serviceman and an Apprentice Electric Serviceman to work involving periodic gas meter changes. The record submitted by the Division Joint Grievance Committee states that the employees performed such work for eight hours on January 6, 1960, in Taft. The record further shows that the Electric Service Department employees performed the same work along with other duties on various other dates. In all, they spent a total of twenty-four hours during the month of January 1960 in the performance of periodic gas meter changes.

The Division points out in its argument that on January 6, 1960, the employees were given such work as there was insufficient electric work to which they could be assigned. The Union, on the other hand, contends that an assignment involving periodic gas meter changes for a full work day constituted a temporary vacancy which should have been filled by Gas Department employees in the next lower classification as provided for in Section 205.3 of the existing Labor Agreement.

The grievance could not be settled at the local level and was accordingly referred to the Review Committee.

Statement and Decision

The periodic changing of gas meters is routine maintenance work and is provided for in that portion of the job definition of the Senior Electric Serviceman which states that such employees may "handle routine gas and water maintenance, operation, and complaints." The usual assignment of such work to employees in these classifications is on an intermittent basis; i.e., work of this nature is done along with their other duties.

The record notes that the employees were performing such work for periods varying from two to eight hours at a time. The record also indicates that use of Electric Department employees to make periodic gas meter changes over an extended period of time had not occurred in the past. The circumstances surrounding this grievance suggest that it was an unusual situation where the employees worked a full eight hour day changing gas meters and it was expedient that they be used solely for this purpose to provide them with productive work which would not be in violation of the Labor Agreement.

FOR UNION:

Kenneth Stevenson
W. M. Fleming
L. L. Mitchell

By L. L. Mitchell

Date Mar 14, 1961

FOR COMPANY:

E. F. Sibley
C. L. Yager
V. J. Thompson

By V. J. Thompson

Date February 20, 1961