



The Seventy-Niner

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President's Report

Seattle District Stoops to a New Low Double Standard

-Jo Ann Pyle-

One of the most egregious examples of a double standard has happened recently in our branch. Jonathan Taylor, Station Manager at Bellevue Midlakes falsified clock rings and paid a Carrier for work not performed. Taylor repeatedly changed the end tour of at least one Carrier so that he was paid a substantial amount of straight time, regular overtime and penalty overtime which he did not work. The Carrier often left work well before his scheduled end tour, but Taylor not only paid him for his eight hours, he also put him in for regular and penalty overtime. Taylor also instructed a 204B to make these same false end tours for this Carrier.

On at least two occasions, the Carrier submitted 3971s for annual leave and Taylor changed the annual leave to time worked. Taylor even put the Carrier in for overtime on the days the Carrier should have been on annual leave.

In a month and a half, the Carrier only clocked out two times. All other end tours were input after the fact by Taylor and the 204B.

When Taylor was asked if he had ever falsified other clock rings, he said he did not

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President/New Low Double Standard

recall. Well, management, I have a tip. If an employee “doesn’t recall” whether they falsified other records, then it’s likely that they did.

In fact, we previously discovered that Taylor had falsified other records, but we didn’t have the level of proof we would need to pursue it through the grievance procedure. We brought these instances to management’s attention over the past several years and nothing was done about it.

When Taylor was finally proven to have falsified these clock rings, what was the penalty? Was he fired? No. Was he stripped of his supervisory status? No. Did he have to pay the money back? No.

We’ve actually had Carriers removed for even taking a coffee coupon from UBBM. We’ve had numerous cases where Carriers have been fired for falsification. These removals are upheld even if it didn’t result in any loss to the post office. Management always argues that once an employee falsifies something, they can no longer be trusted and therefore the removal should stand. Why can’t a craft employee be trusted after a falsification charge but Taylor can be? This is why we’re so incensed by this case.

What actually happened to him is that he lost his Bellevue station manager position,

but he’s currently the acting station manager at University Station in Seattle. The postal service also decided that Taylor did not have to repay the stolen money. Craft employees get letters of demand all the time for repayment when they’re accidentally paid more than they should be. Our people have to pay this money back. Why does someone who steals money from the post office not have to pay it back?

The rationale for not firing him and for not making him pay the money back is that he didn’t gain personally from this falsification. What this seems to indicate is that if I steal from the post office for myself I may be fired (unless you’re a manger) but if I steal and give it to someone else, then I won’t be fired (sounds like a Robin Hood theory). What kind of a message does that send to our employees? We had a Seattle Carrier fired for pumping a few gallons of gas into his girlfriend’s car so she could get to a job interview. How is this really different?

If Taylor wanted to reward this Carrier for his performance, then he should have recommended him for a Special Achievement Award, which is provided for in the Employee and Labor Relations Manual.

I’m disgusted with the Postal Service about this and so should you be.