

Speeches and messages: 1965-1967: Hawaii postal employees massive salary rally

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

Speeches, Speeches and messages, Box SP2, Folder 3

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Hawaii Postal Employees Massive Salary Rally

In an effort to correct what they claim to be a twelve year old injustice, the local organizations of mailhandlers, letter carriers and postal clerks are sponsoring a public rally, which will be held at the Ala Moana Banquet Hall, at 7:30 P.M., on Wednesday, March 15, 1967.

Our Congressional Delegation have been invited to attend the rally. Representatives of local civic, political, labor and fraternal groups have also been invited to participate. A national officer of the National Association of Letter Carriers, James P. Deely from Washington D.C. and a National Vice President of the United Federation of Postal Clerks, Robert Soule will also be present.

Officials of employee organizations, said that Congress, when it classified postal workers in 1955, placed letter carriers, postal clerks and mailhandlers one notch too low on the Federal salary scale. Subsequent legislation has artificially "linked" the pay of these postal employees to that of low paid secretaries and other jobs traditionally filled by women on the government payroll. "This has depressed our salaries unfairly," National Officials said. "This is unfortunate, but most women are paid less than men because theirs is usually the second job in the household. Letter Carriers, Postal Clerks and Mailhandlers are the breadwinners for their families, and they must be paid on a scale comparable to the importance, difficulty and responsibility that their job entails." The Letter Carrier and Postal Clerk want Congress to raise them from their present position, Level 4, to Level 5, and Mailhandlers from Level 3, to Level 4.

Officials of employee organizations said that inadequate pay and incentives in the postal establishment are causing deteriorating service, and disrupting morale. They claim that the Post Office has been forced to lower its entrance standards because it cannot, as a general rule, attract the same caliber of recruit that private industry can recruit. They also claim that present pay structures make it difficult for the Post Office to retain competent help.

More than 400 employees and friends are expected to attend this "Level 5" Rally. This does not just concern letter carriers, postal clerks and mailhandlers, "It concerns every American citizen. The average American is very unhappy about the kind of postal service he's getting. We postal employees are embarrassed by the kind of service we have to supply. The only way to improve the service is to make the job sufficiently attractive to recruit and keep the best available people."

**Hawaii State Association of Letter Carriers
National Association of Letter Carriers**

"COME ALIVE WITH LEVEL 5" Salary Rally will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 1967 at 7:30 P.M. at the Ala Moana Banquet Hall.

This is going to be the toughest, and the most important legislative campaign in the 78 year old history of the National Association of Letter Carriers. We are battling against enormous odds. We can win only if every member of every Branch in the country does his share and a little bit more -- to achieve victory. This is going to be a team effort -- and our team has 192,000 members. Each member of the team must play his position intelligently, tirelessly and courageously.

This "Level 5" Campaign is the most ambitious ever launched and its success depends upon the 100% cooperation of all.

All members, families of letter carriers and friends of letter carriers are cordially invited to participate in this crusade. Your interest, your efforts and your attendance will help us achieve maximum total effort to elevate all letter carriers into Level 5 pay scales.

Your very able and eloquent National Officer, James P. Deely, Director of Health Benefits has been assigned to attend this history making rally. Mr. Robert Soule, National Vice President of the United Federation of Postal Clerks will also be present. Congressional Representatives, local government, civic and labor leaders have been also invited.

Remember you have a date on Wednesday, March 15 at the Ala Moana Banquet Hall at 7:30 P.M. Bring your families and friends.

WE HAVE ONLY ONE OBJECTIVE -- THE PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF HR 7 -- THE LEVEL 5 BILL.