

DOCKET SECTION

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

Docket No. R97-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF
THE NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
AND MOTION FOR LATE ACCEPTANCE
(NAA/USPS-20)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response to the following interrogatory of the Newspaper Association of America: NAA/USPS-20, filed on September 26, 1997.

The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response. This response could not be completed on October 10 because of the early closure of Postal Service Headquarters.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



Scott L. Reiter

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-2999; Fax -5402
October 14, 1997

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

NAA/USPS-20. Please refer to the document referenced in a September 8, 1997 Postal Service press release entitled "Finding Common Ground" prepared by a "Blue Ribbon Committee" of "top corporate executives.

a. How were the eight "mail industry leaders" that comprised of (sic) the "Blue Ribbon Committee" selected?

b. Please explain why the Blue Ribbon Committee did not consist of a representative body of large, medium and small mailers.

c. How much did the physical production of the report cost the Postal Service?

d. Did the Postal Service contribute staffing and time in support of the Blue Ribbon Committee's efforts?

e. Approximately what percentage of the total costs of the Blue Ribbon Committee's efforts were funded by the Postal Service?

f. In to what postal cost accounts would the time and costs incurred by the Postal Service related to the Blue Ribbon Committee's efforts be recorded?

g. How are the postal cost accounts identified in subpart (f) attributed?

RESPONSE

a. These industry leaders were selected on the basis of their business and postal knowledge, influence in the mailing industry, their dependence on mail as a key component of their business operations and their willingness to take time to identify critical issues from the mailers/vendors perspective, and their desire to identify and recommend action steps that are necessary to ensure the long term viability of the mail in meeting the future needs of postal customers.

b. The Blue Ribbon Committee represented a cross-section of the mailing industry and many of the business' represented on the Committee depend on all sizes of customers. Further, the Committee did reach out to all customers through surveys and focus groups to ensure the broadest representation of viewpoints were considered.

- c. Physical production costs (i.e., printing) were \$20,250.
- d. Yes
- e. The Postal Service funded nearly all of the costs associated with the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee. The Postal Service did not pay the travel expenses or salaries of the industry committee members nor of their representatives (i.e., working group). Production costs for the Blue Ribbon Committee panel sessions at both the New Orleans and Boston National Postal Forums were paid by National Postal Forum Inc., a Not for Profit Educational Corporation.
- f. The salary and benefit expenses of the headquarters staff associated with the Blue Ribbon Committee accrue to subaccount 183 of the appropriate personnel accounts in cost segment 18. Other expenses accrue to account number 52321 in cost segment 18.
- g. The costs in (f) are considered institutional.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott L. Reiter", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott L. Reiter

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