



**Comptroller General  
of the United States**

**Washington, D.C. 20548**

B-226666.4

June 16, 1989

The Honorable Brock Adams  
United States Senator  
770 U.S. Court House  
W. 920 Riverside Avenue  
Spokane, Washington 99201

Dear Senator Adams:

This is in response to your letter of March 29, 1989, in which you request that we review correspondence from your constituent, Mr. [redacted], concerning his claim for additional reimbursement for the shipment and storage of his household goods under the commuted rate system.

By way of background, we note that Mr. [redacted] has been pursuing his claim through various channels since 1985. We denied his claim in our decision B-226666, Nov. 23, 1987 (copy enclosed), in which we held that Mr. [redacted] was only entitled to reimbursement under the rate schedule published by the Administrator of General Services. Mr. [redacted] continues to claim reimbursement under a higher local tariff rate which was not incorporated into the government's schedule of commuted rates until several months after his move.

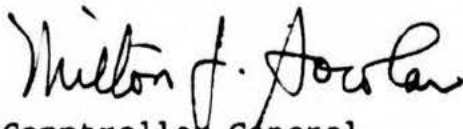
New commuted rate schedules are issued by GSA to reflect nationwide increases, and, in Mr. [redacted] case, that occurred approximately 6-1/2 months after the local tariff rate was increased. Although the GSA rates were made retroactive, these rates were made retroactive only to the date of the nationwide increase, May 23, 1985. In Mr. [redacted] case, his household goods were delivered on December 2, 1984, and thus were not covered by the higher rates. As we noted in our decision, cited above, we accept GSA's explanation that it would be administratively impossible to issue a new commuted rate schedule each time there is an increase or decrease in a local tariff rate.

Subsequent to our issuance of that decision, we have responded to correspondence on Mr. [redacted] behalf to the Honorable Helen Delich Bentley on March 22, 1988, to your Office on December 22, 1988, and to the Honorable Thomas S. Foley on the same date. Mr. [redacted] also pursued his claim

with the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), but his petition was dismissed by the MSPB on February 8, 1989. We have examined Mr. [redacted] correspondence as you requested, and we find that he has raised no new issues that we have not responded to in our decision and subsequent correspondence. Mr. [redacted] still insists that he is entitled to additional reimbursement, but we have advised him there is no authority to grant him such relief. Furthermore, as we noted in our decision, cited above, we compared Mr. [redacted] out-of-pocket expenses for shipment and storage of his household goods with his reimbursement under the commuted rate system, and the difference was \$42.08 in unreimbursed expense.

There is nothing further that we can do for Mr. [redacted] regarding his claim. Mr. [redacted] only recourse, if he still wishes to pursue this matter, would be to file suit in the appropriate court and within the time limitations as provided for in 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(a)(2), 1491, 2401, and 2501 (1982).

Sincerely yours,



Acting Comptroller General  
of the United States

Enclosure