

Speech file

POST OFFICE LETTER CARRIERS

by
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~~Mr. Speaker~~, I have introduced a bill, H. R. 9419, which is similar to H. R. 7, to raise the level of postal field service salaries.

The letter carriers are usually married men with families to support. They now remain at the PFS-4 level throughout their service in the Post Office Department. Actually, there is no promotion ladder for these letter carriers except the automatic raises within grade.

My bill, along with approximately 118 other similar bills, is before the Classifications Subcommittee of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Hearings are in progress now. Testimony has been heard from Mr. Macy, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, opposing these bills but offering no alternatives. The testimony of the Assistant Postmaster General, Mr. Murphy, also argued against the bills and presented some unacceptable alternative proposals. Let me ask, where has the Post Office been with its proposals? The original act went into effect in 1955, but now the Post Office belatedly offers its modest proposals.

Many Congressmen are concerned that letter carriers are not making enough money and are not in a salary bracket to which their work skills entitle them. My bill, H. R. 9419 would benefit the letter carriers by offering them more than the "token" pay raises of the Post Office Department.