

...Unions say newly appointed postmaster is deliberately slowing mail

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the Republican party.

Meanwhile, CNN reports that DeJoy continues to hold at least \$30 million and as much as \$75 million stake in his former company XPO Logistics, a United States Postal Service contractor.

DeJoy's appointment follows the resignation of two members of the Postal board of governors earlier this year, at least in part to protest efforts by Trump aides to control USPS finances and operations.

NALC's grievance comes just after 84 lawmakers from both parties wrote to DeJoy denouncing the shutdowns and overtime ban.

A group of Senate Democrats, led by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, including Ron Wyden of Oregon has asked the USPS inspector general to investigate the policy changes DeJoy imposed and to examine whether DeJoy "met all ethics requirements" regarding his personal finances and XPO stake.

DeJoy's changes were presented as a delivery initiative test called "Expedited Street/Afternoon Sortation (ESAS)."

But an internal USPS documents shows that USPS brass knew when it imposed the changes that the result may be "mail left behind and mail left on the workroom floor or in docks" because Letter Carriers would be banned from using overtime and/or making extra trips to deliver it.

DeJoy notified the union on July 16 the ESAS test was scheduled to start at 400 sites nine days later.

"These changes directly impact terms and conditions of employment of city letter carriers" and violate the USPS contract with the 200,000-member union, said NALC President Fredric Rolando.

Retired transit union lawyer publishes new historical detective novel

Susan Stoner, retired staff attorney at Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757, has published the ninth in a series of historical mystery novels set in the Portland of 1900-1920. The series, under her pen name S.L. Stoner, follows a fictional trade union spy named Sage Adair as he delves into real-life scenarios

The delays could not only affect delivery of vital items, such as food and medicines, but also cost consumers money by delaying bills so long that people would have to pay finance charges. Other objectors, including Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union, the other big postal union, said delays could also prevent people from successfully voting this fall.

Nonpartisan analysts estimate three-fourths of American adults are eligible to vote by mail on or before the Nov. 3 election. In its delayed primary on August 8, Hawaii became the seventh state to switch to totally vote by mail.

But voting by mail assumes USPS delivers ballots to voters on time and it postmarks returned ballots on or before Election Day. DeJoy also later decided to override past practice and ordered no priority for handling ballots.

DeJoy justifies his moves with the same explanation prior GOP-named Postmasters General used: The need to cut costs due to the Postal Service's flood of red ink. He did not mention the real reason for the ongoing yearly deficits, but Rolando frequently does: The annual \$5 billion the USPS must fork over to prepay future health care benefits for current and future workers.

That mandate, which Congress imposed in 2006, sent the USPS deep into the red ever since and kept it there. The current coronavirus-caused depression and resulting closures have only made matters worse, leading the USPS board to approach Congress for a \$25 billion grant as part of the next pandemic economic stimulus package. The House approved it, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., opposes it. So does Trump. He threatens to veto any legislation with it.

taken from the history of the time. Unseen, the latest installment, takes place at an Indian boarding school and reservation, where Adair investigates the murder of an Indian Service inspector. The meticulously researched settings have earned Stoner a fan base of history buffs. Normally she gives readings and discusses the books at Powell's. None are scheduled due to the pandemic however.

Unions are campaigning for it.

"While these changes in a normal year would be drastic, in a presidential election year when many states are relying heavily on absentee mail-in ballots, increases in mail delivery timing would impair the ability of ballots to be received and counted in a timely manner—an

unacceptable outcome for a free and fair election."

Lawmakers also want to know why DeJoy instituted this "experiment" before unveiling a long-term solvency plan for the USPS.

Responding to a prior letter from House Oversight Committee Chair Carolyn Maloney, D-

N.Y., on the DeJoy changes, USPS said July 22 that "these changes did not originate from Postal Service headquarters." The House Oversight Committee will call DeJoy to testify on Sept. 17 on his moves. That's Constitution Day. The post office is in the Constitution.

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