

Transport Central

NEWSFRONT

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION -- AT 12:01 AM on Friday, all operations of American Airlines were halted by a strike of 45,000 Transport Workers Union mechanics, communications men and service employes. The TWU, which represents almost half of American's 35,000 employes, is asking a 30% wage increase in a two-year contract. Contract talks began last May; union pay scales range from \$3.30 hourly for teletype operators to \$4.16 for top-rated mechanics.

AIR/LINES -- TWA had a record year in 1968 with 15.2 million passenger miles flown on domestic and international routes; air cargo also increased 20.2% to 514.9 million ton-miles. From up north, North Central reported its greatest passenger and cargo traffic in the line's 24-year history. Passenger miles increased 28% over 1967 to better than 3 million while cargo jumped 40%. North Central also set one of the highest completion records in the airline industry with a factor of 98.5%. Also, on February 7, North Central's last DC-3 made its final flight from Mankato to Minneapolis-St. Paul. A total of 32 DC-3s once served the "Route of the NorthLiners", North Central took delivery of 20 new aircraft last year--seven DC-9's and 13 Convair 580's.

During 1968, the nation's scheduled air lines took delivery of 478 new aircraft at a total investment of \$2.56 billion. TC Contributing Editor Mike McGowen angrily reports there were NOT more 727s built than any other aircraft; that honor belongs to the DC-3. Total DC-3 production was over 21,000, not counting about 2000 copies manufactured by the USSR. 40 years ago this month, an American Airlines prop-jet Electra plunged into the East River while approaching LaGuardia, and a Boeing 727 jetliner set a record of four hours and five minutes on a pilot training flight from San Francisco to New York. 25 years ago this month an American Airlines DC-3 crashed in the Mississippi River below Memphis.

Takeoff and landing quotas previously planned to ease air congestion at five major airports were delayed to June 1 from April 27 by the Transportation Department. The hourly quotas were also modified, saving for the moment Eastern's shuttle service between Washington and New York. Another change also gives level III and private planes a few ad-

ditional slots at Kennedy. The quotas were applied to all operations at the three New York fields, Washington National and O'Hare. An arbitration panel has ruled that United Air Lines must use three-man crews to operate its fleet of Boeing 737s at least until March 1970. The ruling is a limited victory for the Air Line Pilots Association, which has been engaged in a controversy with UAL over crew size since the jetliner went into production in 1965.

The Illinois House passed and sent to the Senate a bill that would require that public hearings be conducted before changes could be made at any municipal airport, including O'Hare. Continental Airlines has entered a joint venture with two other firms to build a chain of moderately-priced hotels in Hawaii. The airline was awarded routes to the island in the domestic portion of the transpacific case, now in official limbo until a decision is reached by the President. President Nixon has named John H. Shaffer to be the head of the 45,000 employee Federal Aviation Agency. Shaffer was a vice president of TRW, Inc. Assistant General Manager Reginald Whitman of the Great Northern Railway was named Federal Railroad Administrator, while Los Angeles planner Carlos Villareal was appointed to the post of Urban Mass Transit Administrator within DOT.

DO NOT PASS GO -- The U.S. Supreme Court has decided to hear Justice's objections to the proposed Burlington Northern merger. OKed by the ICC, and again by a special three-judge federal court, the new delay could stay the merger until 1970. The high court could hold hearings and make a decision before the summer recess, but it is more likely that consideration will be assigned to the fall court term. The original application for merger of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Burlington, Spokane Portland and Seattle and Pacific Coast railroads was entered in February 1961; Justice opposes the merger on grounds of reduced competition in the Pacific Northwest.

PENN CENTRAL PCTPOURRI -- If the passenger-oriented news emanating from PC within the last few weeks continues at the same pace, we'll soon have to establish a regular column for it. Witness these items: First, we report the demise of #67-68, the *Buckeye*,

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overnight coach trains between Chicago and Cincinnati following runs of February 20.... The first fare increase since 1960 for Penn Central takes effect March 1 on all non commuter trains; for example, Chicago to New York one-way first-class jumps from \$67.38 to \$74.44; coach from \$42.46 to \$46.38.... New York-St. Louis trains #3, *Penn Texas*, and #39, *Spirit of St. Louis* are up for discontinuance for the fourth time in two years, this petition is set for March 20.... Finally, two Wall Street Journal reporters raced each other between New York and Washington, one on PC's MetroLiner, the other on Eastern's DC-9 shuttle. The latter won by 60 and 75 minutes each way, downtown to downtown. However, MetroLiner riding and performance is excellent, with parlor space completely sold out into April, and most trains fully loaded and running on schedule.

MORE RAIL RAMBLINGS -- The Illinois Commerce Commission has allowed the IC to increase non-commuter fares by 50 cents one way and 90 cents round trip.... Southern Pacific Company will be merged into a new company, Southern Pacific Transportation Company, so it can be a subsidiary of a new holding company, S. P. Inc., which will in turn be renamed Southern Pacific Company (!). The whole maneuver will allow SP to diversify into non-transportation operations.... Erie-Lackawanna, on appeal, has won an ICC examiner's recommendation to discontinue #10-15 Hoboken-Buffalo; protests must be filed by March 18, after which Division 3 will reconsider its earlier denial.... Northern Pacific has received another special citation from the U.S. Public Health Service for continued high health standards in its food service cars.... New York's full crew laws were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

METROPOLITAN REPORT -- The campaign to end air pollution has taken several unusual turns: The City of Dallas will soon see several buses powered by freon in an external combustion engine, while steam-powered buses will appear in the near future on San Francisco and Oakland streets. Both projects will be financed by DOT grants; LTV subsidiaries will be prime contractors.... Boston's MBTA has approved designs for a new low level streetcar to replace its PCC fleet.

SHORT HAULS -- The National Hockey League is betting that the new BART system will increase attendance at Oakland Seals games; the league turned down an application to relocate the franchise in Vancouver.... Average weekday riding on Toronto's subways increased some 50,000 passengers a day in 1968 over the previous year. The total number of transit rides in Toronto in 1968 was exceeded only by those in New York and Chicago, both much larger cities.... Owensboro, Kentucky is without bus service. Drivers and mechanics of Evansville & Ohio Valley Transit walked off their jobs earlier this month. E&OVT provides service in Owensboro under a contract with the city (TC map, 7 Feb 69).... The roof of the Lechmere station on the MBTA rapid transit system in Boston collapsed under the weight of the heavy snows that have pelted the area since last week.

ONCE OVER QUICKLY -- City bus service in Ann Arbor came to a halt January 31, after the city cancelled its contract with the Ann Arbor Transit Company. The Michigan city has had a succession of transit operators in recent years.... Vancouver, Washington is to rely on a water tax to pay for the operation of its soon-to-be-municipal transit service; voters must approve the council action.... For the first time in several weeks, no properties adopted the Exact Fare system within the past seven days.... The Cleveland Transit System will expand its successful downtown loop shuttle bus system and change from 22 37 passenger coaches to 16 53 passenger units. CTS also plans to purchase 10 more Airporter rapid transit cars.... Kent State University of Ohio is through its Campus Bus Service the first operator east of California to have water-filled bumpers installed on its entire fleet. The bumpers are a safety device which makes use of the cushioning effect of water to reduce impact in vehicle collisions.

LAST WORDS -- To answer some readers' queries, TC's full masthead appears once each month, in the first monthly issue, and reflects the staff status at that time. All contributors listed under Editorial Assistance provided TC with a significant amount of written or pictorial material during the previous month.