

Transport Central

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MERGER MANEUVERINGS — That N&W-C&O merger recommended last week (TC 21 Mar 69) included several traffic conditions we only referred to in passing. To clarify, L&N and Southern would be allowed to establish joint rates on coal from mines located on the merged lines; Bessemer & Lake Erie would be given "special rates and routings" on Bessemer-Norfolk traffic; N&W should sell its half-interest in Detroit & Toledo Shore Line to the Grand Trunk (GT would then become sole owner); and GT would be given trackage rights into Ford's Wixom, Mich. plant, along with a larger split of freight traffic through Milwaukee (via GT car ferry) with Milwaukee and C&NW connections. Also, should B&M elect to join N&W's Dereco lines, the latter should sell its Portland-Worcester line to Penn Central to provide for competitive service to New England.

ROLLING ALONG — Reader Ronald DeGraw reports that the Red Arrow Liberty Liners are not awaiting the torch, as we itemed here last week. They were taken out of service when the schedule changed March 7 and are now being repaired, including new wheels, new air-conditioning units and considerable body work and repainting plus cleaning up of the interior. The repairs are already well underway and they will hopefully be ready to be put back in service when the schedules are changed again in June....B&O/C&O discontinued the Capitol-Detroit (19/45-48/20, Willard-Detroit) on March 27, and substituted a special bus service Fostoria-Detroit effective today (28) after the ICC decided not to investigate the petition....Penn Central has petitioned 404-405 (Boston-Albany) for the third time in two years, claiming a continuing decline in patronage even though PC advertised the service as the ICC suggested....The New York Public Service Commission has asked PC for \$40,000 in "laxity charges" following the poor report issued on the first year of New York-Buffalo Empire Service....CB&Q/NP/GN have issued a 40 page descriptive 8½x11 book entitled "Burlington's Tours to the Western Wonderland", listing over 30 tours and package-rate trips to the West and Canada from Chicago; it is available from your local travel agent or W. F. Burke, GPTM, Burlington RR, 547 W. Jackson, Chicago 60606....an indefinite court injunction has been granted the city of Chicago to its appeal of an ICC order allowing PC 70-71, Chicago-Cincinnati to be repeticioned; the stay remains effective until a special three-judge federal panel decides the appeal....Groups appealing ICC orders permitting train-offs have successfully kept 3 Boston-Worcester commuter runs, IC/CofGa/SCL's Seminole and Burlington's Omaha-Billings trains running as of this date....The Illinois Commerce Commission has okayed the closing of Chicago's Englewood PC/RI station, but decreed that all trains stopping there at present must continue to do so and the Rock must maintain a shelter there for its commuters....Look for the "containerization" of people as a cheap means of overseas travel; two Chicagoans are working on that principle.

LONG LINES — If and when Lockheed's L500 takes to the air, it may be carrying automobiles--and their passengers. Universal Airlines of Detroit is hoping for a 1973 start of transcontinental auto ferry service. A car and four occupants could make the trip for as little as \$400....That Japan Air Lines DC-8 that made an unscheduled landing in San Francisco Bay last year has taken to the air again after a refurbishing at United's Bay Area maintenance base....Seaplane service linking New York, Philadelphia and Washington will begin July 1. Downtown Airlines of Trenton will operate 19 passenger craft from "ports" at the foot of Wall Street, Vine Street and in the Potomac; New York-Washington fare will be \$35 to \$45....Maverick California airline PSA has made a tender offer for western Airlines International stock....The Queen Elizabeth II has finally taken to the sea for testing, this time with refurbished turbines.

METROPOLITAN REPORT -- Rome's subway wasn't built in a day, either. The initial six mile line took 18 years to construct; the new extensions bid fair to take even longer than that. The principal reason for the delay lies in the Italian government's extreme reluctance to destroy any relics of the country's colorful history. Rome ordinances require the evaluation and preservation of all artifacts, and subway construction has unearthed many; the necessity for "kid glove" treatment for them when they are found has seriously slowed the work's progress. At one proposed station location, an entire early Roman home was discovered virtually intact, and construction had to be halted for days while archaeological experts swarmed over the site....In an almost-unnoticed decision (outside of Indiana at least), most units of Indianapolis city and Marion county government were merged by action of the Indiana General Assembly earlier this month. Included in the list of services for which affluent suburbanites now will have to pay is local mass transit. At present, the area is served by a heterogeneous mass of carriers, most of whom are not faring particularly well financially; an area-wide transit authority has been oft proposed over the years, but little concrete action has been taken.

CTS officials are happily reporting that the Airport Rapid extension is carrying twice the number of passengers they hesitantly predicted last November. More than 4,000 riders every day are taking the 35¢, 20 minute trip between Cleveland's Public Square and Hopkins Airport. Some 600 of these riders board the Airporters at Windermere station, 19 miles to the east. CTS has applied for DOT funds to assist in the purchase of ten additional Airporter cars....Support is growing in the Illinois legislature for a bill that would permit municipalities to turn over a portion of their share of motor fuel taxes to local transit companies; the CTA (which would benefit from such assistance) has estimated it would need some \$15 million in additional revenue to avoid another fare increase.

LONG LINES -- The airlines serving O'Hare were quick to react when a scandal of major proportions involving thefts on a grand scale rocked Chicago's port facilities. In contrast to about \$15 million worth of pilferage each year from Navy Pier and Lake Calumet harbors, airline and police officials agreed that thievery from airport cargo facilities is "minimal"....The new terminal building at Osaka International Airport is in full operation with little more than a year to go before Japan's Expo '70 World's Fair. A 9,000 foot runway is still under construction; the new facilities will enable the airport to handle more than 1,000,000 passengers each year. The terminal building itself houses nine international carriers and four Japanese airlines, as well as a 105 room hotel....The FAA, under newly-appointed Administrator John H. Shaffer, will shortly begin semi-secret field tests of magnetic devices intended to spot potential hijackers before they board their planes. At the same time, the agency announced it will launch a massive bilingual educational campaign in English and Spanish to warn potential pirates of the extreme penalties involved in diversion of a flight to Havana. The agency also revealed long-range proposals for a four-satellite system to be used for the relay of air traffic control information. Initially, one each would be placed in synchronous orbit over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans at an altitude of 22,300 miles, at a cost of some \$10 million....In a rare burst of cooperation (no doubt hastened by the FAA), 60 U.S. airlines have agreed among themselves to shift flights from peak periods to less-busy hours to help ease the airport squeeze. The new schedules were worked out to meet limits imposed by the FAA on the number of flights per hour at the five busiest U.S. airports in New York, Chicago and Washington....Pan American has asked CAB permission to route some transatlantic flights to and from Bradley Field in Hartford, citing the extreme congestion around Kennedy Airport for the action. Pan Am has reasoned that in addition, almost 3,000,000 passengers in the New York metropolitan area would be better served through Hartford. During last summer's congested periods, many Pan Am flights had to halt at Gander to await space in the holding pattern over JFK International, causing added expense to the airline and much inconvenience to Pan Am's passengers. There is currently much talk in the New York area about the need for a fourth jetport to ease the crowding at JFK, La Guardia and Newark....Gateway Aviation's air taxi operations out of LaCrosse (Wis.) are ending today (March 28). The Gateway Transportation subsidiary began scheduled service last summer....The Pennsylvania Turnpike is expected to announce its first increase in tolls in the 29 year history of the facility within the next few weeks. The hikes are necessary to finance a \$150 million construction program.