

# Transport Central

NEWSFRONT

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WHEN WILL IT END? -- The transpacific air routes case seems destined to be with us forever. When the final "final" recommendations were released some weeks ago, and Continental was excluded from receiving those South Pacific routes, the way was left open for that line (and others) to present changed petitions for such services. First Continental intimated it would file suit to overthrow the denial; now United has asked for authority to serve the South Pacific from the east coast, Midwest and Hawaii. The air line also asked the Civil Aeronautics Board to hold further hearings on the domestic and South Pacific phases of the trans-Pacific route investigation. It would appear a distinct possibility that the next President may yet be able to announce his awards.

FLYING HIGH -- On the other hand, domestic route cases (at least in other areas than Hawaii) are disposed of far more easily. Between the Midwest and Gulf states, the CAB has granted this authority:

American: Chicago-San Antonio; Detroit-Dallas/Fort Worth; Houston-St. Louis; Detroit-San Antonio. (Competes with Delta Houston-St. Louis; with Braniff Chicago-San Antonio and Detroit-Dallas/Fort Worth.)  
Eastern: Chicago-New Orleans; Chicago-Memphis, competing with Delta on both segments.  
Delta: Chicago-Nashville, competing with Eastern.  
Braniff: Detroit-Dallas/Fort Worth, competing with American.  
Ozark: St. Louis-Dallas/Fort Worth, competing with American.  
Frontier: Kansas City-Dallas/Fort Worth, competing with Braniff.  
Southern: Memphis-New Orleans, competing with Delta.

All of the above services are non-stop operations; unsuccessful applicants were Allegheny, Continental, National, Northwest, Texas International, Trans World and United.

JET JOTTINGS -- A Northwest 727 recently landed at Executive Airport after it missed a landing at Fort Lauderdale; the 129,000 pound aircraft touched down successfully on the 6,000' runway, and took off again after all passengers had disembarked....TWA begins round-the-world service on August 1st....Ozark is considering improving service between Columbia, Missouri and Chicago, Dallas, Tulsa and Cape Girardeau....McDonnell Douglas delivered 25 DC-8s and 41 DC-9s in 1968; the total is 10 less than in 1967....TWA has started a \$6½ million expansion of its passenger loading area at O'Hare International Airport; the program will take two years to complete. The number of gate areas will be increased from 9 to 11 in anticipation of the increased loads to be carried by the jumbo jets....Mohawk is to propose to the CAB a new approach to computing fares that establish fixed rates between any two cities regardless of the number of stops made en route. The airline said the present structure penalizes passengers unable to get bookings on direct flights and who must take slower runs that make additional stops.

LONG HAULS -- The Queen Elizabeth II completed its maiden voyage on Wednesday, and sailed triumphantly into New York harbor for the first time. The new queen of the Atlantic was escorted into the harbor by the Coast Guard cutter Morgenthau, the destroyer Conway, and a flotilla of fireboats, tugs and small craft, festooned with marine flags. Thousands of onlookers welcomed the ship at the pier, while overhead hovered flights of Coast Guard and Navy helicopters, which were joined by a new Hawker Harrier VTOL. The \$72 million Cunard liner completed the trip just 5½ days after departing Southampton, ending months of delays....The National Transportation Safety Board warned Wednesday that the use of facilities placed over and under Interstate highways presented a "potential source of catastrophe". The report cited specifically the six overhead restaurants that span the Illinois Tollway....The World Bank has approved \$17 million in loans to help modernize Tunisia's railways. The aid will finance the foreign-exchange costs of a \$29.2 million railway rehabilitation and modernization project that will include track renewal and acquisition of locomotives and other rolling stock. Tunisia's railways, the S.N.C.F. Tunisiens, are government-owned....The Illinois Commerce Commission has ordered all 25 roads operating in the state to inspect 13,000 miles of track because of recent derailments.

BUSY WEEK -- No less than twelve train-offs head the news on the rail side this week (a record for TC). First, IC proposes to replace the Hawkeye between Dubuque and Sioux City with bus service effective May 27; the remainder (11-12, Dubuque-Chicago) would be rescheduled to depart Dubuque at 5:30 AM, and Chicago at 5:30 PM, with an approximate 4 hour running time each way....Those three Boston-Worcester trains have finally expired physically....Seaboard Coast Line wants Florida PSC permission to discontinue 93-94, City of Miami-South Wind, between Jacksonville and St. Petersburg....Norfolk & Western's City of St. Louis, 209-210 (as well as Centralia-Columbia trains 32-33-34-37) are off....Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac 33-34, the Silver Comet, between Washington and Richmond was discontinued May 8 following ICC's decision not to investigate the petition....CN's Toronto to Markham commuter train, 990, must continue running while hearings are held; two Montreal-Sherbrooke trains have finally been dropped, with Sunday service ordered retained and all numbers also retained and assigned to the remaining service....Camden-Pemberton, N.J., commuter service ended April 25 with the discontinuances of 983-984 via the Penn Central....MoPac has discontinued 41-42, Palestine-Houston....A correction: the Pelican's sleeper is still operating, but Bristol-Washington only....The City of Chicago, several other Illinois communities and three utilities commissions have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear their appeal of C&E/L&N's Georgian discontinuance; the train operated between Chicago and Evansville via C&E.

METROPOLITAN REPORT -- While legislation designed to grant CTA financial aid from a gas tax hike failed in Springfield, a measure designed to permit the creation of a special tax district to underwrite construction of the new downtown subway routes appears to have at least a chance of passage....The Transit Authority was also occupied with a mid-week explosion that totalled coaches 3150 and 3153 (Flxible, 1965), and 5312 and 5481 (Twin Coach, 1951), along with minor damage to several other units at the Kedzie-Van Buren garage facility on the city's West Side. The collision of two coaches (Diesel 3150 ran into propane 5312, rupturing its intake valve) spread propane gas about the area (the main fueling island) and a spark set off the blast. Miraculously, no one was hurt seriously....Both the Burlington and Rock Island are considering the possibility of establishing transit districts a la the IC to purchase new equipment with federal funds for lease to the carriers. The Rock Island would purchase 48 bi-level cars to add to its fleet of 20 (10 more are now on order).