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# FRISCO Railfar

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**MORE FAVORABLE LEGISLATION NEEDED:** - After more than a year of depressed traffic and revenues, railroads look for an upturn and better business in 1959, Daniel P. Loomis, president of the Association of American Railroads, stated in a report to the annual member roads meeting of the AAR.

Mr. Loomis warned, however, that a business pickup will not solve the railroads' problems. He renewed pleas for the early adoption of legislation placing railroads on an equal competitive footing with other forms of transportation.

"The need for equality of treatment," Mr. Loomis said, "was never more apparent than this year. Regulated and taxed to a far greater degree than other carriers, and victimized by government subsidy and promotion of airways, highways and waterways, railroads were sent reeling by the recession."

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**AAR APPOINTEE:** - President Clark Hungerford has been appointed to the board of directors of the Association of American Railroads.

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**SEEKS TRANSPORT UNITY:** - Congressman Oren Harris, chairman of the House Commerce Committee, recently said that "the time may be ripe" to examine the advantages of "full co-ordination of all media of transport into a unified service."

Speaking before the Western Railway Club in Chicago, the representative from Arkansas added that "such co-ordination perhaps best may be achieved through the integration of all media into common carrier systems offering across-the-board service, where shippers have available to them in one source the type, quantity, and combinations of service most appropriate, convenient and consistent with their needs."

PASSENGER SITUATION DISCUSSED: - Although the railroads cannot hope to compete with jet airlines over long distances, there is no reason why they cannot offer a competitive service with improved equipment that will enable them to put their passenger operations on a profitable basis, Interstate Commerce Commissioner Winchell told the National Association of Railroad and Utility Commissioners at a meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

He said that the recent report of Examiner Hosmer in the passenger deficit investigation had aroused tremendous interest in the seriousness of the passenger service problem, but the most impressive thing was that most comments insisted that "a way must be found to insure the survival of this medium of mass passenger transportation."

Commissioner Winchell further declared that the real issue is not whether railroad passenger service will be continued, but whether it will be under private ownership or some form of governmental proprietorship.

"Most of us would agree that the former is immensely more preferable," he continued. "It is apparent, however, that the railroads cannot continue long to underwrite the deficits incurred by the passenger service. Some way must be found to make the passenger service a self-sustaining operation. From the experience gained over the past years, it seems obvious that periodic passenger fare increases offer absolutely no hope. What is needed is a transportation system which can operate along existing rights of way, safely and at an over-all speed which would enable the passenger to complete the journey in little or no more time than it would take the air traveler to go from origin to final destination."

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SWITCH LAMP--ATOM POWERED: - An atomic switch lamp has been installed by the Pennsylvania Railroad at an industrial siding switch in Altoona, Pennsylvania. The Pennsy expects "substantial" maintenance savings from the use of this lamp.

The lamp, using Kryton 85 gas, will stay illuminated for ten years without refueling or maintenance. The self-contained lamp measures about a foot square and weighs 44 pounds. It will be visible from 500 yards at night.

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FRISCO LOADINGS: - For period November 15 to November 21, 1958, inclusive, Frisco revenue freight loaded on-line and received from connections totaled 14,587, compared with 15,430 for the previous 7-day period and a total of 15,289 for the corresponding period last year.

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STATE TAX ON RAILS "A FRAUD": - The Kansas Supreme Court has ruled that a state's setting of railroad's tax base three times as high as everyone else's is "arbitrary, oppressive and grossly discriminatory."

The Kansas revenue and taxation assessment body has been in the practice of assessing railroad property at 60 per cent of true value in Cherokee County. All other property was assessed at 20 per cent.

The Kansas City Southern and Missouri Pacific paid \$200,000 in taxes this year under protest, asking that the court grant them a legal hearing. In granting the railroads' right to trial, the Supreme Court said that the railroads were being assessed on such "an excessive ratio as to constitute a fraud and a discrimination."

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RAILROADS ASKED TO AID LEGISLATIVE FIGHT: - Speaking before the New York Railway Club, Clair M. Roddewig, president of the Association of Western Railways, called upon all those whose livelihood depends upon the railroads to actively seek to help them.

"The troubles that beset the railroads" - restrictive regulations, subsidized competition, unfair taxation - "aren't going to be corrected just because they are wrong," Roddewig declared. "This fight is going to have to be fought principally in the field of politics, because the remedies for our most serious problems all depend upon legislation."

"Our objective is not to put motor carriers or barge lines or airlines out of business," Roddewig continued. "All we insist upon is to be allowed to operate under the same set of rules as our competitors, for all favoritism to be eliminated, for equality of treatment by the federal, state and local governments."

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PERSONNEL CHANGES: - The following changes in Frisco personnel have been announced:

Appointments: - R. D. White, division engineer, headquarters, Fort Smith, effective December 1.

....R. N. Schmidt, assistant division engineer, headquarters, Chaffee, effective December 1.

....J. O. Elliott, assistant division engineer, headquarters, Fort Scott, effective December 1.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO... Frank J. Andrade, Jr., assistant district manager-sales, who was recently elected president of the Mobile Traffic and Transportation Club.

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INCREASE IN RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION WORK PREDICTED:

The Commerce and Labor Departments estimated jointly that construction activity by railroads in this country will amount to approximately \$325 million in 1959, compared with \$300 million in the present year, or an increase of 8 per cent. Spending for new construction for all industrial and other purposes is expected to rise 7 per cent to a record \$52.3 billion in 1959, thus passing the \$50 billion mark for the first time.

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ICC ORDERED TO STUDY CAR-HIRE CHARGES: - The United States Supreme Court has ordered the ICC to conduct a complete inquiry into the question of car-hire charges, long a railroad controversy. No date for the required study was set and ICC spokesmen did not estimate when the study would get underway.

At issue was a district court's order rejecting the ICC's 1955 approval of a uniform car-hire rate increase fixed by the AAR. The lower court also ruled that the ICC erred in "brushing away with little more than a wave of the hand" a proposal that a mileage factor be included in car-hire charge computation, rather than the flat rate used in the past. The proposal referred to was proposed by short-haul railroads, who went to court to challenge the ICC's power to enforce rates proposed by a private association, i.e., the AAR.

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RECORD CHRISTMAS MAIL EXPECTED: - Nationwide indications are that the 1958 total volume of Christmas mail will be the heaviest in history -- and the facilities of the Post Office Department and the railroads will be taxed as never before.

As in previous years, the railroads have made advance preparations for handling the holiday volume expeditiously. The upswing in letter mail and parcel post shipments is already in evidence, and the railroads again join with the Post Office Department in the appeal to the American people to shop and mail early.

The goal of railroad and postal employes is to effect delivery of Christmas mail all over America by Christmas Eve. To attain this goal -- each and every railroad family is urged to set a good example by mailing early.