



FRISCO Railfax

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BLAIR BOOSTS FEE BILL: - Supporters of the bill now before the Missouri State Senate to increase the fees of heavier trucks by \$100 a year received some unexpected support this week. It came from Gov. James T. Blair, who said he thought a fee increase was only "proper and fair", but added that he was not certain that the increase should be \$200 a year rather than \$100.

At the same time Blair gave his approval to the measure which passed the Senate last week and is now awaiting action of the House to increase the length of trucks on Missouri highways by five feet and the maximum weight from 60,010 to 64,650 pounds. The Governor said he favored the bill because it was especially important to farmers that 50 foot trucks be permitted in Missouri since they are legal in most adjoining states.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch each gave their editorial support this week also to the bill to increase the license fees of the heavier trucks.

The Globe-Democrat declared editorially that "many have been convinced the trucking industry has not paid its way for the damage its box-car vehicles inevitably do to highways". The Globe added "that certainly truckers should pay a reasonable tax for the heavier loads they want to carry. If the bill for additional size and weight of trucks is passed, the one for increased fees should also be a must."

The Post Dispatch declared that "so far, despite committee action, the Senate has not yet faced up to the issue of fair truck fees. It has only given the powerful truck lobby what it sought. Those Senators who regard the fee bill as a companion measure (to the truck weight increase bill) will have to fight hard to achieve their expectation."

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

E. A. Osborne, assistant superintendent, Springfield and Clinton Subdivisions, headquarters, Springfield, Mo., effective May 1.

C. W. Williamson, terminal trainmaster, headquarters, Memphis, Tenn., effective May 1.

J. M. Godfrey, assistant superintendent, Fort Worth Subdivision, headquarters, Sherman, Texas, effective May 1.

A. C. Hart, assistant superintendent, Cherokee Subdivision and Oklahoma Subdivision, Tulsa to and including Sapulpa, headquarters, Tulsa, Okla., effective May 1.

F. E. Wait, Jr., assistant superintendent, Wichita and Burrton Subdivisions, Carthage Subdivision Neodesha to Columbus, headquarters, Neodesha, Ks., effective May 1.

T. M. Galloway, terminal trainmaster, headquarters, Kansas City, Mo., effective May 1.

FRISCO LOADINGS: - For period April 27 to May 3, 1957, inclusive, Frisco revenue freight loaded on-line and received from connections totaled 14,852, compared with 14,709 for the previous 7-day period and a total of 16,292 for the corresponding period last year.

HIKE IN FIRST CLASS FARE ON EASTERN ROADS: - An increase of approximately 15 per cent in first-class fares has been granted by the ICC to several Eastern railroads, including the Chesapeake & Ohio, Lehigh Valley, New York Central, Norfolk & Western, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines, Pittsburgh & Lake Erie and Reading. The increased fares are to be made effective upon publication of the necessary tariffs on not less than 5 days' notice to the Commission and public.

The petitioning carriers had previously asked for an increase of 5 per cent in coach fares, which was granted and an increase of 45 per cent in their first class fares to 6.851 cents a mile.

WANTS LOBBYING INVESTIGATED: - Senator Vincent E. Baker of Kansas City has offered a resolution in the Missouri Senate for a special committee to investigate the action of "special interest" lobbyists in the current session of the Missouri Legislature.

Baker said his resolution was prompted primarily by the action of the Missouri truck lobby, whose bill to legalize the use of longer and heavier trucks on state highways was passed by the Senate on a 25 to 4 vote last week. Earlier in the session, Baker had introduced a bill to require all lobbyists to register. That bill is now in committee.

ESTIMATED NET INCOME: - Class I railroads in March, 1957 had a net income of approximately \$71 million, compared with \$70 million in the same month of 1956, according to the A.A.R. In the first three months of 1957, net income approximated \$161 million, a decrease of \$2 million compared with the corresponding period of 1956.

Net railway operating income of Class I railroads in March 1957 was \$89,857,313, compared with \$88,976,189 in March, 1956. For the first three months of 1957, net railway operating income totaled \$213,857,758, compared with \$218,900,246 in the same period of 1956. In the twelve-month period ended March 1957, the rate of return on railroad property investment (after depreciation) was 3.92 per cent, compared with 4.16 per cent for the same period of 1956.

FRED GURLEY CHAIRMAN OF SANTA FE: - Fred G. Gurley, formerly president and chairman of the executive committee of the Santa Fe Railway has been elected chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the line.

Named to succeed Gurley as president, is Ernest S. Marsh, who has been vice president in charge of finance.

REDUCED FURLOUGH FARES EXTENDED: - Earl B. Padrick, chairman of the Interterritorial Military Command has announced the extension by the railroads of furlough fares for uniformed military personnel traveling at their own expense, to June 30, 1958, on the basis of approximately 2-1/4 cents per mile. The fares would have expired on June 30, 1957.

TIME TO CLEAR THE PICTURE

