



FRISCO Railfax

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RAIL MERGERS IN THE NEWS: - Talk of mergers by two different pairs of railroads were revealed in the past few days. First was the announcement that discussions are under way on the possibility of a merger between the New York Central and the Pennsylvania. Three days later similar announcement came from the Missouri Pacific that studies were being made on a possible merger with the Texas & Pacific Railroad.

Announcement on the New York Central-Pennsylvania studies was made jointly by Alfred E. Perlman, president of the NYC, and James M. Symes, president of the Pennsylvania. Later, Mr. Perlman said, in St. Louis, that the Wabash Railroad also would probably be included in the New York Central-Pennsylvania merger. The Pennsylvania now owns control of the Wabash.

The Missouri Pacific-Texas & Pacific merger announcement came from Russell L. Dearmont, president of the former. He said that a joint committee of the two rail lines' officials was making this study, and that a report would be forthcoming, probably next spring. Merger of the two would make it the third largest rail line in the United States.

PREDICTS AIR CARGO INCREASE: - In less than a decade, air cargo movements in the United States will increase 670 per cent, Stanley H. Brewer, professor of transportation at the University of Washington, has predicted. His conclusion was based on a survey made for the Boeing Company, which indicated that air cargo traffic would increase from 400 million ton-miles in 1956 to an estimated 2.7 billion ton-miles in 1965.

In two other studies made for Boeing, it was predicted that the United States domestic airline traffic will increase four and a half times or to about 70 billion revenue passenger miles a year by 1965. Brewer based his prediction on increase in air cargo traffic on the development of new type planes.

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

Retirements: - M. D. Riggs, passenger traffic manager, retired November 1, after more than 40 years of railroad service.

Appointments: - E. G. Baker, vice president, headquarters Birmingham, Ala., effective November 1.

F. L. Coulter, vice president, headquarters, New York, N. Y., effective November 1.

A. W. Arnett, passenger traffic manager, headquarters, St. Louis, Mo., effective November 1.

E. R. Belt, vice president-finance, headquarters, St. Louis, Mo., effective December 1.

C. E. Blair, comptroller, headquarters, St. Louis, Mo., effective December 1.

H. B. Parker, general auditor, headquarters, St. Louis, Mo., effective December 1.

COACH REVENUE INCREASE: - Passenger revenue in coaches in the past seven months of 1957 exceeded the same period of last year, but there was a noticeable decline in parlor and sleeping car revenue in the first seven months of this year. Passenger coach travel totaled \$254,100,480, an increase of 1.8 per cent above the corresponding period of last year. Parlor and sleeping car revenue amounted to \$120,382,647, a decrease of 6.9 per cent over the first seven months in 1956.

Number of passengers carried in coaches in the seven month period totaled 90,993,745 or 5.4 per cent less than the same period of 1956. There were 8,467,561 passengers carried in parlor and sleeping cars in the first seven months of this year, or a decline of 14.9 per cent from the same period last year.

NEW ENGLANDER ELECTED: - Commissioner Edward R. Thornton, of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, was elected president of the National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners at its convention which closed in Memphis, October 30. He succeeds Commissioner John C. Hammer of Tennessee.

AIRLINES WANT RATES HIKED: - Four domestic airlines asked the Civil Aeronautics Board to increase domestic fares from 12 1/2 to 20 per cent, in order to enable them to finance the purchase of new equipment. Making the appeal were: American Airlines, 15 per cent; Braniff Airways, Inc., 12 1/2 per cent; Eastern Airlines, 15 per cent, and Capital Airlines, Inc., 20 per cent. Capital has also asked for a mail subsidy of more than \$10 million to enable them to meet operating costs.

BEARING SOME FRUIT: - The Interstate Commerce Commission's nationwide safety road check on motor carriers appears to be producing some worthwhile results. It announced on October 30 that it had completed its fourth nationwide check, inspecting 10,685 vehicles and drivers, and finding 87.3 per cent to be defective or deficient in at least one respect. This contrasted to a showing of 88.4 per cent defective in August, 88.2 per cent in July, and 89.9 per cent in May.

Defective brakes still lead the list in faults found among carriers.

LONG SERVICE RECORDS: - The Railroad Retirement Board recently revealed that a study it has made shows that seven out of every 10 railroad employes, on record in 1954, had 10 or more years of railroad service. More than 4 of every 10, or 43 per cent, entered railroad service before 1941; 26 per cent started in the World War II period, 1941-1945; 14 per cent in the post-war years, 1946-1950, and the remaining 17 per cent during 1951-1954.

JOIN EXCISE REPEAL FIGHT: - The National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners, at their recent convention in Memphis, voted to join other organizations in urging repeal of federal excise taxes on transportation. The group will name a special committee to "implement and carry out" these objectives. The NARUC said the taxes are "discriminatory and contrary to the best interests of the traveling and shipping public."

ICC ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS: - The Interstate Commerce Commission announced the appointment of Robert Newel, chairman of its Fourth Section Board, as assistant director of the Bureau of Traffic, and Paul W. Coffey, member of the Fourth Section Board, to succeed Mr. Newel as chairman.

AAR OFFICIAL RETIRES: - William E. Hall, manager of the AAR Information Section, has retired after 37 years of service.

VICTIMS OF UNSOUND TAX POLICIES: - The transportation industry of this country is the victim of "unsound taxing policies" that are working to its detriment, Commissioner Clarke of the ICC told the Board of Directors of the American Trucking Associations, Inc. He said it was his opinion that governments -- Federal, State and Local -- "frequently fail to objectively assess the total impact of taxation." He declared there seems to be too much emphasis on revenue needs "and not enough consideration given to adverse affects which flow from the reckless exercise of taxing power."

NEW AAR TRAFFIC BOOKLET OUT: - The Association of American Railroads has published a revised edition of "How to Travel by Train." Copies of the 32-page book may be obtained by writing the Public Relations Department of the AAR, Transportation Building, Washington.

FRISCO LOADINGS: - For period October 26 to November 1, 1957, Frisco revenue freight loaded on-line and received from connections totaled 16,508, compared with 15,951 for the previous 7-day period, and a total of 17,523 for the corresponding period last year.

MEETINGS:

November 13-15 -- National Industrial Traffic League, Chicago.

November 17-21 -- National Defense Transportation Association (annual convention), Washington, D. C.

November 22 -- Association of American Railroads (annual membership meeting), Chicago.

December 5-6 -- Trans-Missouri-Kansas Shippers Board, St. Joseph, Mo.

December 11-12 -- Southeast Shippers Advisory Board, Savannah.
