

CPA Rejects Merger With Air Canada

By ROBERT RICE
OTTAWA (CP) — Canadian Pacific Airlines has rejected amalgamation or partnership with its publicly owned rival, Air Canada, to achieve a single integrated plan for Canada's international air services, Air Canada President Gordon R. McGregor said here.

He told reporters after completing his testimony before the Commons railway committee that privately-owned CPA wants to divide up the world into two fields of operation—one for Air Canada, one for CPA.

The head of the government airline indicated that this is the course of action now being pursued by teams of experts from the two airlines at meetings in Vancouver.

Mr. McGregor told the committee that he strongly favors amalgamation of the two airlines. It would eliminate duplication, improve the quality of service and reduce costs.

Mr. McGregor was commenting on guidelines put forward by Transport Minister Pickersgill as objectives in establishing a civil aviation policy. The minister summoned both airline presidents as well as the presidents of the two big rail ways—parent bodies of the airlines—to Ottawa eight weeks ago to set down his guidelines.

GIVEN CHOICES
In the international field, he told the airlines to work out a co-operative approach to serve the Canadian interest as a whole, without competition or conflict. He said this goal could be reached "by amalgamation, by partnership or by a clear division of fields of operations."

Lawyer Begins Ontario Probe Of Bankruptcies

MONTREAL (CP)—A 46-year-old Montreal lawyer has begun one-man investigation into a province-wide bankruptcies race that police describe as one of "gigantic proportions."

Yvon Desloges, chief registrar of bankruptcies in the Montreal district, was asked last week by the Quebec attorney general's department to conduct the investigation, Tuesday, he began his work by issuing summonses for five persons to appear before him to give evidence.

Director Joseph Brunet of the provincial police said the racket appears to be gigantic. He said police first became aware of it three weeks ago when they assembled evidence gathered in their investigations of a recent series of arson outbreaks.

"The whole thing came in light through questioning of people involved in these arson cases, and it just snowballed after that," he said. He said arson was linked to some buildings destroyed by fire and owned by companies who declared themselves insolvent.

FAILURES RISE
Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the first three months of 1964 show that business failures in Canada rose three per cent to 978 from the same period last year. More than half of these bankruptcies occurred in Quebec.

Under the Bankruptcy Act, the registrar has certain investigative powers which include the right to summon and interrogate witnesses.

It is these powers that the attorney general has asked Mr. Desloges to exercise. His task will be to examine witnesses and evidence and present a report on his findings to the government.

"The registrar may even recommend that criminal charges be laid either under the usual fraud laws, or under the Bankruptcy Act," the lawyer said.

Creditiste Proposes Farmer Pay

OTTAWA (CP)—Antoine Belanger (Creditiste — Charlevoix) has proposed in the Commons that if the government pay marginal farmers \$1 an hour during the summer months to make improvements on their own farms.

He said in a supply debate that eastern farmers need direct government aid to earn a decent living. They were crushed between heavy taxes, the high cost of feed grain and low prices for farm produce.

The Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Agency should pay farmers for five hours of improvement work each day, five days a week, throughout three summers. This would place them in a better position to go into dairy farming—the only profitable agricultural pursuit in Eastern Canada.

CAR SALES RISE
OTTAWA (CP)—Sales of new passenger cars and commercial vehicles rose 17.9 per cent in the first four months of this year to 328,000 units from 279,800 in the same period last year, the bureau of statistics said. Monday April sales advanced 6.9 per cent to 79,215 units from 74,080 a year earlier, with the retail value rising 10.9 per cent to \$284,700,000 from \$229,598,000.

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