

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The nation's chief aviation official said Monday that the DC-10 airliner that crashed in flames at Chicago's O'Hare Airport on Friday was doomed from the moment it left the runway, beyond hope even for the most skilled pilot.

Langhorne Bond, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, said he believed it would have been impossible for any pilot to bring the crippled plane under control and coax it to a safe emergency landing.

The tri-jet DC-10 was taking off when its left engine separated from the plane, rolled over the top of the wing and fell to the ground. The American Airlines flight climbed a few hundred feet, then plummeted to Earth. The crash killed 273 people, making it the worst accident in U.S. aviation history.

Several aviation officials have said since the accident that the airplane should have been able to fly without one of its engines.

"That comment is not correct," Bond said at a news conference Monday.

There is no licensing or certification process of any sort to provide for an aircraft flying without an engine. It would unquestionably fly, and very safely, without power from the engine," said Bond, emphasizing the word "power."

"But there is no certification procedure for flying without a whole engine assembly," said Bond, himself a pilot. "There is no pilot training to deal with that eventuality; no aircraft has ever been in the air under those circumstances. There is no reason to think that once that engine came off the airframe, that it would fly."

PORTLAND — United Airlines re-entered the friendly skies over the Willamette Valley Monday, unaffected by a Federal Aviation Administration order grounding DC-10 jumbo jetliners.

It was the airlines' first day of operation since all of its flights were grounded by a machinists' strike 55 days ago.

United is the largest airline serving Portland and Eugene. Its 19 flights Monday represents about 40 percent of the airline's normal traffic out of Portland.

United does not fly DC-10s out of Portland.

The first United flight out of Portland International Airport Monday departed at 7:35 a.m. for Salt Lake City. About an hour later, another United plane took off for San Francisco.

HAMPTON, Va. — The wife of a Vietnam veteran who shot himself to death after taking hostages and battling police in a restaurant here said Monday that her husband "couldn't cope" after the war.

No one knew exactly what happened to Tech. Sgt. Orenen Tucker, 42, during his year in Vietnam.

But he came out a different man, his wife says.

"He got out on a medical discharge and couldn't get himself together," said his wife, Arlene, a day after the 20-year Air Force veteran killed himself.

Because he was sick with "extreme anxiety," she said, her husband retired and they settled in the Gloucester County town of Hayes, where her parents live.

He tried working at a chemical plant near Williamsburg, she said, "but he couldn't maintain the schedule," she said.

After that, Orenen Tucker tried going back to school at Rappahannock Community College. That didn't work out either.

It all ended for the veteran Sunday morning — at the start of Vietnam Veteran's week — at Clyde's Restaurant.

There, said Hampton Detective Charles Firth, Tucker apparently seized a gun behind a counter, took hostages and more than an hour later shot himself once in the chest.

For more study

Atiyeh holds relief plan

SALEM, (AP) — The momentum to get a compromise \$705 million tax relief plan out of committee was halted abruptly Monday when Gov. Vic Atiyeh asked for time to make a final counter-offer.

"I have always been willing to accept any program provided that it does provide some control over future property taxes," Atiyeh said in response to a letter from Senate President Jason Boe asking him to support the conference committee tax plan.

"I am presently attempting to develop some constructive modifications that may be more in keeping with the structure of the conference committee's plan, and still meet my objective of some assurance to Oregonians of a control of runaway property taxes," the governor said.

Committee members said they had expected to pass the plan out Monday afternoon and sent it to the Senate and House for approval. In response to Atiyeh's letter, they agreed to hear his new proposals at 7 a.m. Tuesday.

"It looks like he wants to present a third plan on the eve of action the conference committee is ready to take," said Boe, D-Reedsport. "We're showing all the flexibility in the world and extending every courtesy to the governor. . . But action has to be taken soon and this would be a delay."

The conference committee

plan is the fruit of three weeks of work melding the House and Senate tax plans with some of the governor's proposals. The committee went over the bills Monday and made some minor changes, such as changing the word "completely" to "totally."

Boe's letter to Atiyeh pointed out that the compromise tax plan incorporates many of the basic concepts supported by Atiyeh.

"The ball will soon be in your court, Vic. Reality dictates that your final decision will be between the Oregon Plan and the California Clone," Boe wrote, referring to initiative drives to put on the ballot a property tax limitation measure similar to California's Proposition 13.

"Now is the time for you to show responsible leadership and demonstrate that same flexibility,

even though you may partially disagree with one or two elements of the total package," the Senate president added. "Taken in its entirety, the plan's obvious merits far outweigh any perceived faults."

The compromise plan calls for the state to pick up 30 percent of homeowner's property taxes, increases the income tax personal exemption, increases the amount of federal tax deductible from state income tax and provides a one-time income tax rebate.

It also contains a limit on property tax assessments which is a modification of a proposal submitted by Atiyeh. In addition there is a mechanism to allow voters to control local government spending.



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