

Vancouver Trucker Shuts Down, 15,500 lose jobs

(AP) — Consolidated Freightways of Vancouver, one of the nation's largest trucking companies, decided to shut down its U.S. operations after 73 years, laying off about 15,500 workers on Labor Day.

Hundreds showed up for work on the holiday only to find the

offices locked, according to a union spokesman, who called it "a slap in the face."

The company said it would stop U.S. operations immediately.

In a recorded telephone message, Chief Executive John Brincko told workers at the trucking company not to show up Tuesday.

"Thank you for dialing in on this holiday weekend. I hope you and your family are enjoying the time together," said Brincko, who was named chief executive three months ago. "I have some extremely urgent and sad news to share with you today. Your employment ends immediately."

About 15,500 employees would be affected, the company said, with more than 80 percent receiving termination notices immediately. The remaining supervisory and man-

agement positions will be phased out quickly.

The company said it planned to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Tuesday.

The Vancouver, Wash.-based company lost \$36.5 million on \$463 million in revenue in the first quarter of this year. It lost \$104.3 million last year and \$7.6 million in 2000.



Lionel Hampton's six decade career ranked him with the greatest names in jazz history.

Jazz Great Lionel Hampton Dead at 94

(AP) — Lionel Hampton, the vibraphone virtuoso and stand-out showman whose six-decade career ranked him with the greatest names in jazz history, died Saturday at a Manhattan hospital. He was 94.

Hampton, whose health was failing in recent years, died at Mount Sinai Medical Center at about 6:15 a.m., said his manager, Phil Leshin.

"He was a great man, a sweet, nice, gentleman, and one of the greatest musicians this country has ever produced," Leshin said. "He's influenced thousands of musicians around the world."

Hampton worked with a who's who of jazz greats, from Benny

Goodman to Charlie Parker to Quincy Jones.

Hampton and pianist Teddy Wilson were the black half of the fabled quartet with Goodman and drummer Gene Krupa that in 1936 broke the racial barriers that had largely kept black musicians from performing with whites in public.

Wilson had recorded with Goodman and Krupa previously, and white soloists "jammed" informally with black groups, but a color line was drawn when a white band was on stage.

Later, Hampton's bands traveled the globe as musical ambassadors from America. They also were hotheouses or showcases for such

greats as Jones, Parker, Charlie Mingus, Illinois Jacquet, Dexter Gordon, Earl Bostic, Fats Novarro, Joe Williams and Dinah Washington.

Hampton's music was melodic and swinging, but audiences also responded to his electric personality — the big smile, energy and bounce that contributed to his skillful showmanship. When not swinging on the vibes, he drummed, sang and played his own peculiar style of piano, using two fingers as if they were vibraphone mallets.

"When I was a kid, I always wanted to put on a show," he once said. "I always liked to be taking bows."

Rainbow Coalition Promotes Issues

The Rainbow Coalition is welcoming area residents to an ice cream social on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the St. Andrew Community Center, 806 N.E. Alberta.

The event is free and open to the public as part of the political

organization's bi-monthly membership meeting.

The agenda includes testimonials by long-time activists, entitled "Fighting the good fight - why we got involved," and "Keeping hope alive - why we stay involved."

Topics of the group's business

meeting will cover the proposed creation of a Public Utility District to replace PGE-Enron, raising the minimum wage, health care for all Oregonians and the election of progressives.

For more information, call 503-288-8666.

Worldcom Executives Charged with Fraud

(AP) — The former chief financial officer for telecommunications giant WorldCom Inc. was indicted last Wednesday on securities fraud and other charges as prosecutors signaled that other former executives were cooperating with their investigation.

The indictment accuses Scott Sullivan, 40, of overseeing a scheme to conceal billion of dollars in company expenses. It was unsealed in federal court in New York's borough of Manhattan



Scott Sullivan after an apparent breakdown in plea negotiations between Sullivan and prosecutors.

The indictment also names Buford Yates Jr., WorldCom's former director of general accounting, as a defendant.

WorldCom, which owns MCI, the nation's second-largest long-distance company, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on July 21 after disclosing the accounting abuses. It was the biggest such filing in U.S. history.

The new court papers also name two other accounting executives, Betty Vinson and Troy Normand, as unindicted co-conspirators.

Transportation Workers Seek \$5 Million

Lawsuit claims whistle blowing on racist remarks led to retaliation

(AP) — The Oregon Department of Transportation faces a \$5 million lawsuit from two electricians who accuse a former manager of retaliating against them for reporting a worker's racist remarks.

Dave Benthin and Kelly Dohn filed separate lawsuits in Multnomah County Circuit Court that name the state and several transportation department officials.

Both Benthin and Dohn worked in the department's Clackamas County electrical shop.

Dave Thompson, a department spokesman, said he had not seen the lawsuits and could not comment on specifics of the case.

Thompson said the department has policies prohibiting the type of behavior described in the complaint and that it provided employees with a procedure to report violations.

"We will prosecute every one of these

things seriously," he said. "Employees have a number of options if they feel something needs to be reported."

Benthin claimed he was on light duty in 2000 after a shoulder injury when he was assigned to work with a co-worker who used racist and homophobic terms. Benthin, whose son is engaged to a black woman, told the co-worker that the remarks offended him.

Soon after, Benthin's manager began investigating an accusation that he had repeatedly visited a Web site on fly-fishing in violation of rules for using state computers, the complaint said.

The investigation concluded that Benthin had violated the policy, but he filed a grievance, which led to the charges being dismissed as baseless.

In late 2000, Benthin's manager told him there was no more light duty and laid him off, according to


the complaint.

Dohn said in his complaint that the same manager had asked him about alleged racist and homophobic remarks made in front of Benthin. Dohn confirmed them.

Two days later, the manager assigned Dohn to work with a co-worker known for behaving aggressively on the job. Dohn claims in the lawsuit that he was nearly electrocuted when the man turned on a 480-volt line Dohn was working on.

When Dohn confronted him, the co-worker threatened to throw him into freeway traffic, the lawsuit says.

Dohn later told co-workers what had happened and later found his journeyman electrician's license under investigation. Dohn is on administrative leave and said he has been given notice that he will be terminated.



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