



SURRENDERS — Lt. Kurt Franz Rossmel, 52, who escaped from a German POW camp at Camp Butler, N.C., in August of 1945 has surrendered to the FBI in Cincinnati, Ohio. A former member of Rommel's crack 10th Panzer Corps, he has been living in Chicago since his escape.

Porter Discusses Boxcar Shortage With ICC Head

Washington — The Interstate Commerce Commission chairman and his director of safety and service have told Rep. Charles O. Porter (D-Ore.) they believe congressional hearings on legislation to penalize railroads holding back freight cars would help resolve boxcar shortages.

Porter conferred with ICC Chairman Kenneth Tuglie and Director Charles W. Taylor to see what the commission planned to do to meet the predicted mid-summer boxcar shortage. In a speech prepared for delivery today in the House of Representatives Porter said the supply of freight cars "is expected to fall 40 per cent short of the needs of the lumber industry in the Northwest before the year is ended."

He noted that spokesmen for both lumber industries and the railroads expect a 1959 car shortage which will exceed the average daily shortage at the peak of the 1955 traffic. Experts foresee the possibility of a situation like that of 1950 and 1951, Porter said. The national average daily shortage then was about 40,000 cars. The shortage lasted many weeks.

Porter said a recurrence "could destroy the hopes of the lumber industry for 1959." He said the shortage results because of the inadequate ownership of freight cars by the various railroads and the inadequate maintenance of existing car fleets.

He said spokesmen for the railroad industry have noted that if carloadings were 10 per cent above the 1958 figure the "anticipated" serviceable freight car fleet on July 1 would not be adequate by approximately 50,000 cars." He observed that most new cars on order won't be delivered until late 1959 and in 1960.

Porter pointed out that on March 30, 1959, the serviceable fleet of Class I railroad freight cars numbered 1,563,930. He said the bad-order backlog was currently the highest in 19 years, 157,870 cars, or 9.2 per cent of total ownership. He also noted that new car replacements were far below the number of car retirements.

SP Commended

The difference between Eastern and Western railroads creates a major share of the problem, according to Porter. He commended the Southern Pacific Company for having the lowest bad-order ratio in the United States. The SP is the only major carrier to serve the Fourth Congressional District in Oregon. Porter observed that the double-door special boxcars for shipping plywood were also used to ship grain and were too often kept in the Midwest by Eastern railroads to meet the pressing shipping needs of the summer harvest.

Both timber and grain must be shipped, Porter said, but the solution to the boxcar shortage doesn't come with another carrier's cars. We need more boxcars and more co-operation, he added. He commended the ICC for facing up to the problem by having its field force members watch car loadings and urging car repairs. He said higher penalties against boxcar pirates might create a better situation.

CITY SELLS PLANTS

New York —(UPI)—The city's three transit power plants were sold at auction Tuesday to the Consolidated Edison company for \$125,840,000. The actual sale took only two minutes. Consolidated Edison was the only bidder.



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