

# Senate Bill Aimed At More Ownership Of Railroad Cars

By **A. ROBERT SMITH**  
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington - The Senate Interstate Commerce Commission has made the first legislative move designed to stimulate greater construction of new freight cars by eastern railroads, in order to mitigate future box car shortages.

The committee has approved S. 1789, which would give the Interstate Commerce Commission the authority to set per diem rental rates which railroad pay for the use of freight cars they don't own. The per diem rate, now fixed at \$2.75, is currently set by the railroad industry itself through the Association of American Railroads.

The ICC is supporting this legislation, for ICC Chairman Kenneth H. Tuggle told the committee he thought it would "embody the ultimate objective of the commission's recommendation No. 1 of increasing the national ownership of freight cars."

Because the railroad industry is sharply divided on this issue, with many eastern lines resisting any increases

in per diem rates, the industry is slow to increase rentals in line with requests of western railroads. The AAR employs a formula which takes into account the depreciation, cost of repairs and book value of the cars in determining the per diem rate.

Backed by Oregonians  
The bill approved by the Senate committee, sponsored by 19 senators from the Far West and western plains states, including Oregon Sens. Wayne Morse and Richard L. Neuberger, would do this, in Tuggle's words:

"S. 1789 would give the Commission an alternative in setting the per diem rate as between the elements of ownership expense involved in owning and maintaining freight cars, including a fair return on value, or of computing the per diem charge on the basis of elements reflecting the value of use of freight cars, or upon such basis or combination of bases as in the Commission's judgment will provide just and reasonable compensation to freight car owners, contribute to sound car service practices, and encourage the acquisition and maintenance of a car supply adequate to meet the needs of commerce and the national defense."

First Choice  
This bill would not give the ICC any power to increase the per diem rate temporarily on an emergency basis, as other bills introduced but not acted on would do.

The bill favorably reported out of the committee headed by Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) is the first choice of a bloc of western railroads whose spokesman, Eldon Martin, vice president of Burlington Lines, appeared in recent hearings.

The bloc included 14 railroads, among them the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Western Pacific and the Santa Fe. Martin said they own a third of the Nation's box cars.

Opposition was voiced by another larger bloc of railroads, mostly operating in the East, but including Southern Pacific and Union Pacific. Represented by James M. Symes, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, they claimed ownership of nearly half the country's freight cars.

"The only sound incentive for an adequate freight car ownership on the part of individual railroads is protection of customer requirements, attraction of new industry and future growth, and prevention of other modes of transport obtaining business because of car shortages," Symes said. "In short, the incentives have to do with revenues from traffic handled and not from an artificial per diem rate."

# Arizonan Killed In Curry Accident

Gold Beach - (UPI) - Herbert Eugene Sample, 21, McNary, Ariz., died Sunday in Curry County General hospital here of a gunshot wound apparently inflicted accidentally by a friend.

The sheriff's office said the shooting occurred in a cabin on the Sixes river.

Sample's companion, John Lopez Durran, also of McNary, told deputies he and Sample had a rifle and pistol, both .22 caliber, and were attempting "fast draws" on one another.

Durran said he then picked up a .30-30 rifle. He said he thought the rifle had but one shell in it, and removed a shell. He pointed the rifle at Sample, clicked the chamber and the gun discharged, he said. The wounded man was rushed here where he died.

Durran was held without charge in the Curry county jail and a coroner's inquest here was scheduled today.



STANDING STARCH-STIFF, these honor Canadian guardsmen get the inspecting eyes of Queen Elizabeth II and President Eisenhower at St. Hubert's Airport in Quebec. Queen and President participated in the dedication ceremonies of St. Lawrence Seaway.

# Phone Directory Recalls Memory

New Orleans, La. - (UPI) - A burly amnesia victim, who was found roaming around at a train station here two days ago without his wallet, Saturday recovered his past by browsing through a telephone directory.

He had to read every name into the O's until he remembered that he is Richard Henry Ohnemus, 26, an electrical worker from Waltham, Mass.

Ohnemus said he decided to go to Fort Worth, Tex., earlier this month to apply for a job in an aircraft plant. He drove to Savannah, Ga., then started on the train to Fort Worth. Ohnemus lost his memory shortly after he arrived in New Orleans and didn't know who he was until he looked through the telephone book.

"I must have looked through a million pages in that phone book before it came to me," he said.

# Reverse Split of French Franc Recalls Use of Big Numbers

By **ELMER C. WALZER**  
UPI Financial Editor

New York - (UPI) - France is making a reverse split on its franc, effective July 1.

On that date a new franc will be in operation at a rate equal to 100 old francs. To find out how much things cost in terms of the new franc the French customer knocks off two zeros from the price in old francs.

For example an article now selling for 2,000 francs will cost 20 new francs. This puts the franc back to its old parity and doesn't change anything but the dignity of the currency which it raises by 100 fold.

Would Start Presses  
Meantime, there are some senators here who are talking about starting up the printing presses to take care of our government bond maturities. They don't say print money to pay off the maturing bonds, but it's the same thing.

They want the Federal Reserve to buy them. If the Fed does that it would have to print dollar bills. And that same thing ruined currencies of many a country in the past.

And it called for the use of some big numbers. The latest French move reduces the size of the numbers to be used there.

Germany ran its printing presses to turn out marks after World War I. The final total on marks outstanding looked like this:

496,585,346,000,000,000,000. That reads 496 sextillion, 585 quintillion, 346 quadrillion. Or it could be read roughly: about 496 and a half billion billion.

Savings Vanished  
And then the mark expired. And with it all the savings of the people. That's the inflation that comes of using the printing presses.

France suffered similarly before Napoleon took over with a sound currency. There is no count available on the French francs outstanding before they expired in a printing press inflation in the early 19th century.

Perhaps, if the inflation senators have their way here we ought to brush up on big numbers to count the dollars we'd need for a loaf of bread.

Archimedes some 2,000 years ago devised some big figures - and he didn't have the nice little gadget which we call a zero. He gave King Gelon an answer to the question: How many grains of sand would be required to fill the universe.

Since we have zeros to work with our job would be simpler than the Greek mathematician's.

We could add zeros on and on until we got up to what the late mathematical expert Edward Kassner called a googol. A googol is the figure one with 100 zeros attached.

Kassner figured that the grains of sand on the Coney Island beach didn't come to a googol. They amounted only to the figure one with 20 zeros attached.

If we needed to go above a googol, we could go to a googolplex which is the figure ten raised to the googol power. It could also be expressed 10 to the 100th power of 10. It would be a heck of a big number. The dollar would be gone before we got to that monstrosity.

The Old Shell Game  
Editorially, the Wall Street Journal calls the senatorial suggestion an example of the old shell game. In that game the trickery is concealed by the patter of the speller.

The Journal notes that no one would pay attention to a

# Col. Ralph Phelps Guard Commander

Spokane - (UPI) - Col. Ralph S. Phelps, commander of the 161st National Guard Infantry Regiment here, has been named assistant commander and brigade commander of the 41st Oregon and Washington National Guard division.

Colonel Phelps receives the promotion following the retirement of Maj. George Cook, commanding general of the division.

Brig. Gen. Alfred R. Hintz, adjutant general of Oregon and presently assistant division commander, will fill Cook's post upon Cook's retirement Sept. 30.

WITH SQUADRON  
Earl G. Robbins, airman apprentice in the U.S. Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey E. Robbins, route 1, box 3, Rogue River, is serving with Light Photographic Squadron 61 at the Miramar Naval Air Station, San Diego.

# What Is The Law?

This column is prepared as a public service by the College of Law, Willamette University, Salem, to explain basic legal principles, not to provide legal advice. The reader is cautioned not to apply these cases to his own problems without an attorney's advice, for differing facts may change the outcome.

## To Establish Possession, Control Must Be More Than Fleeting

During the prohibition era it was unlawful to "possess" alcoholic beverages. These laws raised many interesting questions regarding the legal meaning of the term "possession." For instance, Joe and Sam met on a street corner and Joe offered Sam a "shot" of whiskey. Sam quickly swallowed a substantial quantity of the contents of the flask and handed it back to Joe. Soon thereafter Sam is brought before the local court on the charge of possessing intoxicating liquor. Did he ever possess liquor?

## Control Temporary

It is quite evident that Sam was in possession of the whiskey that he drank. However, the courts did not feel that the statute making the possessing of intoxicating beverages unlawful was intended to cover the consumption of such liquids. In addition, most courts did not believe that Sam ever had possession of the flask since his control over it was only temporary and in order to possess an item a person must intend to control it for more than an instant. Although the opinion of the judiciary may with the prohibition laws, these cases represent a basic rule of law relative to possession to the effect that the control cannot be "fleeting" for possession.

In addition to the requirement of permanent control, a person must have the necessary attitude or intent toward an item to possess it.

Would Be Acquitted  
If Joe dropped a small flask of liquor into Sam's pocket unknown to Sam and Sam was arrested for possessing liquor, Sam would again

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# Graham Delivers Sermon on Ship

Aboard The S. S. United States - (UPI) - Billy Graham delivered a sermon to the passengers and crew crowded into the main lounge of the liner United States in mid-Atlantic Sunday.

The American evangelist is en route home from a six-month tour of Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia and Europe, including a week in Moscow.

He told the audience he had sensed during his tour "a deepening of world tension. Yet I have also sensed a deepening hunger for God that penetrates even behind the Iron Curtain."

He is due in New York Tuesday.

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