

Pennsy, NY Central Now World's Largest

Supreme Court Approves Railroad Merger

NEW YORK (AP) — The Supreme Court approved yesterday the nearly six-year-old proposal to merge the Pennsylvania and New York Central railroads in the biggest consolidation in U.S. corporate history.

In a 7-1 decision, the court in Washington cleared the tracks for the creation by Feb. 1 of the world's largest privately owned railroad system with assets of more than \$4.3 billion.

Justice Abe Fortas, speaking for the court, said the justices could find no basis for reversing approval of the merger by the Interstate Commerce Commission and a New York federal court.

The merged road, to be known as the Pennsylvania New York Central Transportation Co., stretches halfway across the continent between New York and St. Louis and Chicago with 20,000 miles of road.

Eventual savings for the railroads have been estimated at more

than \$80 million annually. More than 95,000 employees are affected but the merger agreement protects them against loss of jobs.

Part of the merger agreement is that the Penn-Central will make a loan of up to \$25 million to the financially ailing New Haven Railroad and pick up some of the New Haven's operating losses.

The court also approved, in its decision, ICC terms calling for the Norfolk & Western, a prosperous coal-hauling road, to take over three smaller eastern roads—the Erie-Lackawanna, Delaware & Hudson and the Boston & Maine.

The three smaller roads, fearful of the economic consequences of the Penn-Central merger, had sought refuge under the Norfolk & Western corporate umbrella.

Under the merger plan, the Pennsylvania's chairman, Stuart T. Saunders, will become board chairman and chief executive officer of

the Penn-Central. The Central's president, Alfred E. Perlman, will become president and chief administrative officer.

In a joint statement, Saunders and Perlman said they were "gratified" at the court decision.

Consummation of the merger will make it possible to extend early financial aid to the New Haven and to expedite its inclusion in the Penn-Central system," they said.

Justice William O. Douglas entered a partial dissent. Justice Thurgood Marshall did not participate, presumably because of his position with the Justice Department as solicitor general.

Regarding the New Haven, Fortas said: "Continuation of the operations of the NH, which the commission has found to be essential, can be assured only upon and after effectuation of the merger with the Penn-Central."

The New Haven hauls 25,000 commuters from Westchester Coun-



ABE FORTAS

Congress Begins Second Session

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 90th Congress began its second session at a slow, low-key pace yesterday as House Speaker John W. McCormack (D-Mass.), issued a hurry-up plea, setting an Aug. 1 adjournment goal for members to go home to politics.

In this election year, the session is expected to erupt frequently with political fireworks as the legislators struggle with the frustrations of Vietnam, the budget and economy, taxes, crime on the streets.

And right off, the Senate faced the prospects of a filibuster over civil rights proposals when they are taken up on Thursday.

On this snowy day, however, there was little of the excitement that usually occurs at the start of a new Congress, where many new members are sworn in. The same faces are back this year and the off-year drabness was even more marked because the 1967 session didn't end until mid-December.

It took a slow, 22-minute roll call for the Senate to muster a quorum of its 100 members,—56, five more than necessary to do business. The tally showed 34 of the 64 Democrats and 10 of the 36 Republicans absent.

The House had less than 100 of its 435 members present at the start but a quorum call managed to muster 288. The meeting lasted an hour and 10 minutes before the House quit until noon today. The Senate session was even shorter, 53 minutes with adjournment until 8 p.m. tomorrow, an hour before President Johnson delivers his State of the Union message to a joint session of Congress. But the short meeting was punctuated with a flurry of debate when Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), was blocked in his effort to have the Senate receive an antiwar petition from a group of women headed by former Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin of Montana.

Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), objected that "under long-established customs, principles and practice" the Senate does not transact any business until after the President delivers his message.

One of the big questions facing Congress as it resumed its work is what to do about Johnson's request for a 10 percent surcharge on income taxes.

The budget is due before Congress Jan. 29 but some administration officials have been talking about asking for an extension of time. But Mills' committee has set hearings next Monday and Tuesday to hear the government's top fiscal officials.

Commonwealth Press Association To Meet

The Press Association of Commonwealth Campuses, a state-wide organization of commonwealth campus newspapers, will hold regional conferences beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday. The campuses east of University Park will meet at the New Kensington Campus, and campuses west of University Park will meet at the Schuylkill Campus.

"Reorganization will be the main theme of these conferences," said Timothy J. Aurentz, interim chairman. He said that in the last three years, the Press Association has been ineffectual.

"Through reorganization, it is hoped that the Press Association will be better equipped to carry out its purpose," said Richard A. Nash, interim vice chairman.

Explain New Projects

Aurentz (8th-marketing-Lebanon, Pa.) and Nash (8th-liberal arts-Shamokin) will be guest speakers at the conferences. Their speeches will explain the plans and projects of the new organization.

The new organization was developed last term, according to Aurentz. He said that the member newspaper editors have adopted a new constitution which will take effect at the organization's Spring Conference—pending action by the Senate Committee for Student Affairs. The Interim Committee was appointed by Gerry Hamilton, president, to prepare the organization for its new constitution.

Other members of the committee include Bill Epstein (8th-journalism-Philadelphia), former president Dennis Arbutuski (11th-English-New Kensington), Linda Cunningham (5th-journalism-Shamokin) and Gerry Winslow (6th-education-Altoona).

The committee will meet monthly, until May, to act on legislation for the reorganization. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for tonight.

Central News

Association Press Services, a central news agency, has been initiated on a trial basis, according to Aurentz. He said that APS is currently covering Keystone activities and the Organization of Student Government Associations. APS sends these stories to member newspapers. Aurentz said, "As we get some of the bugs out of the APS system, we hope to increase our coverage with the entire University as the focal point."

An administrative staff centered at University Park has been sending newsletters and other information to member editors. The staff has also handled all of the administrative details.

"Some of our plans for the future include an awards program, a periodical trade publication for members and a news magazine for all of the campuses and centers of the University," said Aurentz. "The reorganization will permit us to include yearbooks, literary magazines and any other press-related organization."

Nash explained that the awards program will make awards to member publications and students on the basis of their achievements in the field of student publications. "Our first awards assembly will be held May 17 and 18 during our Spring Conference," he said. "These awards will be made in the various categories of news and editing, business, and production." The program will also award

scholarships to students on the basis of their work on a member publication.

Gerry Winslow, chief secretary of the interim committee, said the Press Association needs more students to work on the administrative staff. "We are particularly interested in recruiting former editors and staff members of commonwealth campus publications. We also need students with training or experience in journalism, business or secretarial work." Any student is eligible to join the organization.

Department Requests Begin Today

Shafer To Give Budget to Assembly Early

HARRISBURG (AP)—Budget Secretary Arthur F. Sampson said yesterday Gov. Shafer tentatively plans to submit his 1968-69 budget to the General Assembly when the lawmakers reconvene March 4.

"That is our plan at the present moment," Sampson said.

"I've already had briefings with our budget analyst and will begin reviewing the individual departments Tuesday."

The 1968-69 budget is expected to exceed the \$2 billion mark as compared with \$1.8 billion for the current fiscal year ending June 31.

Sampson, meanwhile, turned down a request from Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Fleming, (R-Allentown) that the legislative leadership

be furnished with advance information on the new spending program.

"It is the duty of the executive branch of government to screen budget requests in preparation of the budget," Sampson said in a letter to Fleming.

"We will not give out such information in advance of the presentation of the budget to the legislature March 4. We will begin discussions with the departments . . . today and these meetings will be closed."

Sampson said that this has been a traditional practice and similar requests in other administrations were also denied.

Administration officials have said in past weeks that new spending requests are expected to amount to some \$500 million, but would have to be trimmed by \$300 million to avoid a tax increase.

Shafer already has told the General Assembly he would propose no new taxes for 1968 and would veto any additional spending bills unless they were accompanied by tax measures to finance them.

Fleming, as chairman of the legislative Budget and Finance Committee, wrote Shafer last week asking him for advance information on the budget requests, particularly those of the Departments of Public Instruction and Public Welfare.

"The committee feels it is most important that we have the budget requests so that an analysis can be made before the budget is formally presented to the legislature," Fleming said.

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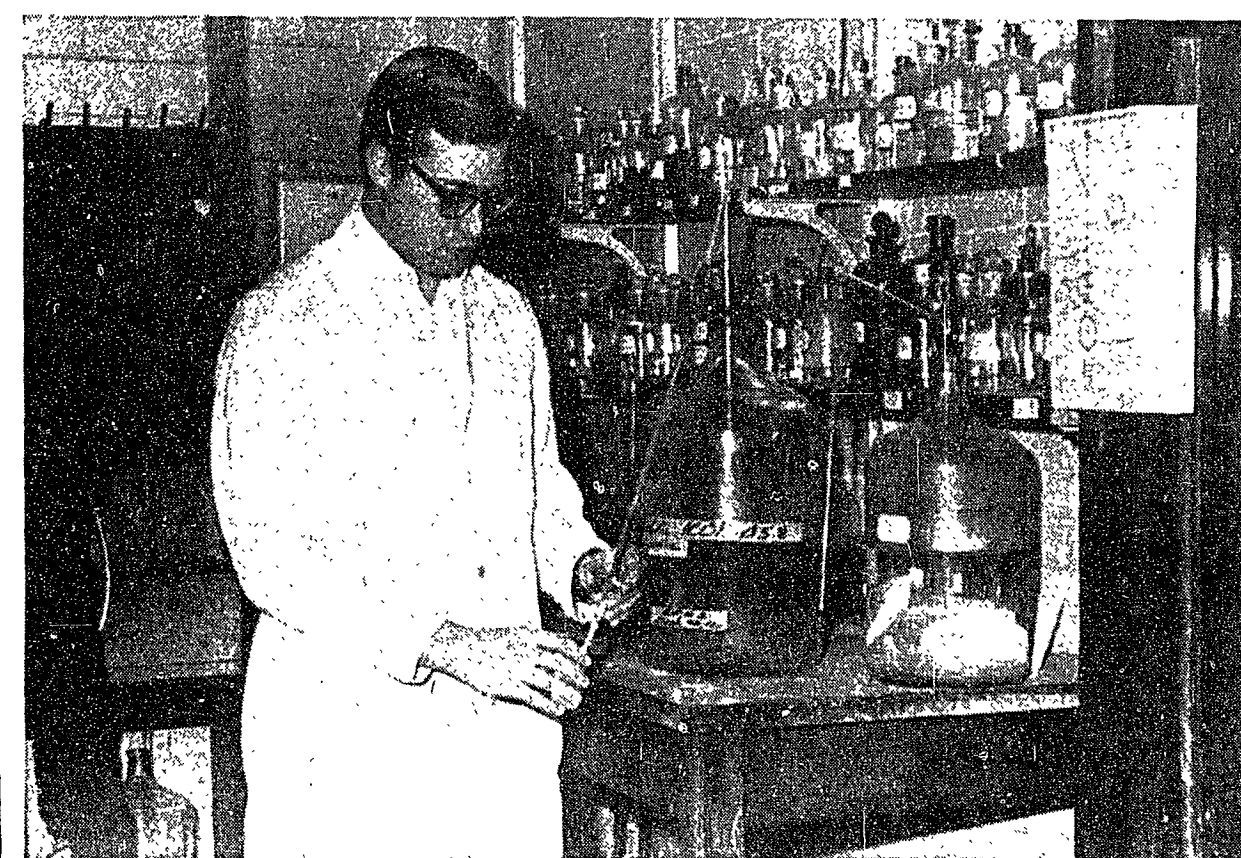
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