

Bargain flights approval asked

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Civil Aeronautics Board asked President Carter yesterday to approve daily scheduled transatlantic "Skytrain" flights by Britain's Laker Airways Ltd. at the bargain price of \$135.

Laker's proposed New York-London fare would be 65 per cent below the normal economy class cost of \$385 and 80 per cent below the \$659 price of normal first class tickets. The proposed flights would have only one class of service.

The London-New York fare would be 59 British pounds, which the board said amounts to about \$102 at current exchange rates.

Skytrain tickets would be sold on a first-come, first-served basis just hours before each flight, with no opportunity to make advance reservations. Despite that inconvenience, the board said, the cut-rate price would be "a boon to... the traveling public."

A CAB spokesman said the board recommended a one-year approval of Laker's proposal, subject to conditions designed to let U.S. airlines initiate similar low-cost transatlantic flights, as part of its experimental drive to offer the public lower-cost air travel.

In its recommendation to

Carter, the board noted that travelers must now pick between expensive regular service or discount fares with restrictions on such things as how long a trip can last.

"There is little doubt that a significant number of travelers will be willing to undergo the burdens and uncertainties attendant on Skytrain service — the burden of what promises to be a lengthy wait in line for tickets, plus the uncertainty of whether enough tickets will be available on the day the traveler desires to fly — in return for the low price and freedom from the rigidities of the alternative forms of service," it said.

The CAB request represented a major victory for Laker, which has successfully fought opposition by the British government as well as from other airlines. Because the President must approve all foreign air routes, final determination of whether to permit Skytrain flights will be up to Carter.

Laker will not be granted a monopoly on low-cost flights, the CAB said. If Carter approves the flights, it said, Laker may not start service until 60 days after filing a formal tariff and starting date so U.S. carriers will have time to propose competing flights.



Carter pleads for reform

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter yesterday asked congressional leaders to give Social Security reform high priority because there is "grave concern" among the elderly that their pensions are in danger.

Carter made the plea in a meeting with congressional leaders and afterwards, House Speaker Thomas O'Neill said he will take up the Social Security issue as soon as work on the President's energy plan is completed.

O'Neill quoted Carter saying, "There is grave concern on the part of our senior citizens about a certain element of the press telling about the Social Security system going down the drain."

He said the President "would like some Social

Security reform to ease the minds of the senior citizens."

Government statistics show reserve funds for the Social Security system — which provides pensions for 33 million persons — are dwindling and Carter has proposed to supplement them with general tax revenues and a payroll tax increase on employers and some employees.

O'Neill said the President will give Congress a list of his legislative priorities "in the next few days." One of Carter's top aides predicted he will get more programs approved his first year in office than any other Democratic president this century.

In other activities yesterday: — White House Press Secretary Jody Powell

said Carter "has not given up" hope for creation of a Consumer Protection Agency, although O'Neill indicated the measure will not be considered by Congress this year.

— Rep. John Brademas, House Democratic Whip, said O'Neill told Carter the House "with a little more work," can win approval for his universal voter registration bill.

— The White House announced Carter will hold a news conference at 2:30 p.m. EDT Monday.

— Powell said Carter stands behind his energy plan, despite a House Ways and Means committee decision yesterday to eliminate the proposed rebate on cars which get good gas mileage and to cut back the President's plans for taxing "gas guzzling" autos.

Court ruling backs anti-porn campaign

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Supreme Court yesterday gave further support to anti-obscenity campaigners, but struck down a New York state law regulating sales of nonprescription contraceptives to both adults and minors.

The justices upheld 5 to 4 an Illinois obscenity law under which a storekeeper was convicted in Peoria County of selling two sado-masochistic publications.

The dissenters — notably Justice John Paul Stevens who considers current obscenity guidelines unrealistic — said the court was reneging on its promise that no one would be prosecuted for selling material not specifically described in a statute.

Wesley Ward, who drew a day in jail and a \$200 fine for selling publications entitled "Bizarre World" and "Illustrated Case Histories, A Study of Sado-Masochism," contended the Illinois law did not spell out specific kinds of forbidden sexual contact.

In the New York case, decided on a 7-2 vote, Justice

William Brennan said the statute governing contraceptives is an invasion of privacy and a violation of free speech.

The law banned all advertising of contraceptives, made it a crime to distribute any contraceptives to a person under 16 and allowed only licensed pharmacists to distribute them to persons over 16.

Since the challenge involved only nonprescription contraceptives such as condoms, foams and jellies, the decision did not cover pills and intrauterine devices.

Brennan said "the decision whether or not to beget or bear a child is at the very heart of a cluster of constitutionally protected choices" the court upheld.

The privacy of both minors and adults is infringed upon by the law, the opinion said.

A spokeswoman for the private organization Planned Parenthood said only Utah has a law barring the sale of prophylactics to minors and it has not been enforced.

She said 11 states — Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii,

Idaho, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, South Dakota and Wisconsin — have laws regulating advertising, but there are likely to be exemptions for such things as medical publications.

Stevens, who concurred in this case, cited a study showing no one has ever been successfully prosecuted in any state for providing contraceptive information to a minor.

The justices expressed varying views on different phases of the case but only Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice William Rehnquist would have upheld the statute.

In other opinions the court: — Decided 7 to 2 that a military contractor sued by a serviceman for personal injury may not, in turn, sue the federal government.

— Ruled 8 to 1 that lower courts were wrong to throw out charges against a St. Louis man who was indicted so long after his alleged crime that two defense witnesses died in the interim.

Govt. may set school desegregation deadline

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The administration may set a national deadline for desegregation of elementary and secondary schools, Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano said yesterday.

He said such a deadline should have been set years ago.

"I would like, if it is humanly possible, and possible fairly, to set some

kind of objective date by which we could have the elementary and secondary schools of this nation desegregated," Califano said at a news conference.

"We are looking at the possibility of doing that."

Califano said a national deadline might vary by region or on an urban-rural basis, "but I'd like to have an objective we could shoot toward."

Although he offered no detailed plan, Califano said he is willing "to look at a variety of techniques," and cited the Chicago school case "that had been festering for nine years."

He said the HEW's Midwest regional office is using a nongovernment consultant to negotiate a teacher desegregation plan in the nation's second largest city. The plan, designed in

cooperation with the Chicago Board of Education, calls for mandatory reassignment of some 2,200 teachers to balance the racial makeup of all school facilities in the city.

The board is using a computer to pick the teachers who will be reassigned, and the powerful Chicago Teachers Union has agreed to go along with the idea.

Chicago's student population, however, con-

tinues to be highly segregated.

Efforts at school desegregation have been made in various parts of the nation since 1954 when the Supreme Court rules school districts cannot set up "separate but equal" educational facilities for blacks and whites.

A year later, in 1955, the court said schools should be desegregated.

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