

Bus Transport Compromise To Be Aired Monday

By WILLIAM H. WILLIAMSON
City Hall Reporter

A plan developed by Portland Corporation Council Barrett I. Shur to end the current danger of a bus service stoppage in the Portland area will be tested Monday when it is tried out on Portland Coach Co. officials.

Shur explained it to Gov. John H. Reed Thursday. The governor said later he was favorably impressed.

Until Shur and a special subcommittee of the Area Committee on Transportation (ACT) meet with New York officials of the coach company's parent firm, details of the new

proposal are being kept secret. Reed would say only, "It seems like a logical solution to this important problem."

RESIDES SHUR, city council chairman from Portland, South Portland and Westbrook will meet with bus officials Monday to propose their plan. Reed also will have a representative at the meeting, he said.

The threat of an end to bus service is moving closer. The firm has filed a letter of intent with the Public Utilities Commission to end service Oct. 2.

The PUC has scheduled a hearing Tuesday, making Monday's

meetings an 11th-hour season.

If all goes well, and Shur's proposal meets with company approval, it will be taken to a meeting of the full ACT membership immediately a few days later, at about 4:30 p.m.

IF THAT BODY favors the plan, the PUC will be asked Tuesday morning to grant a continuance so that final approval from the three municipalities can be obtained.

Although the work of ACT, mainly done through its subcommittee, has been well kept secret, several things are known.

The most important is that a professional auditor has completed a study of the bus company's books.

There is no doubt now the proposal to be presented to the company will be an attempted compromise on the bus firm's proposal that area communities increase their school bus contributions more than \$100,000.

THE BUS COMPANY has asked that communities not only pay full fares for students not subsidizing (they pay half fare), but that the cities assume full fare responsibility for those students who elect to ride the school buses at their

own expense. These students now ride for half fare also.

Such a step would cost Portland and South Portland alone more than \$100,000 extra a year.

Shur conceded Thursday the plan he'll outline Monday is a compromise between the moderate battle being waged by the PUC, on the one hand, and the amount asked by the company.

But Shur declined to hint what amount is being presented in the compromise. He said it would be foolhardy to damage the proceedings Monday by releasing the proposal in advance.

BUT HE SAID he feels it is

a plan that would be accepted by the cities, since the three council chairmen already have voiced their approval.

It would appear the area communities are in a delicate position. If the bus company turns down their offer, they might conceivably win the immediate battle before the PUC, only to lose the overall transportation war in the process.

That's because the Portland Coach Co.'s certificate with the PUC expires early next year, and there is no way the firm could be forced to renew it.

So, if the area is successful in getting the PUC to prevent an end to bus service now, if

such prevention is necessary, the company could still close up shop within a few months, leaving the area without bus transportation.

The cities, especially Portland and South Portland, don't want this to happen.

Because of the position the cities find themselves in, they are reluctant to say much of anything about their plans. For them, the only satisfactory goal is a favorable settlement at Monday's meeting.

Shur said he's hopeful that the bus firm will agree that the compromise is a fair one, and that the question can be settled quickly at Monday's meeting.



Firemen Battle Blaze

A fireman, center, recoils from a wall of smoke and flame after opening a door of the blazing Dyer & Dyer Inc., cleaners 189 Anderson St., Thursday night. District Chief Clement O. Dodd said containers of

cleaning fluid may have fed the flames. Eyewitnesses said they heard several explosions. The building was badly damaged, but no loss estimate was available.

By Staff Photographer John A. James

100,000 Flee Homes As Hurricane Zeros In On New Orleans Area

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP)—Hurricane Betsy, packing 150-mile an hour winds, slammed across the Mississippi River delta Thursday night and toward a tense New Orleans.

Upwards of 100,000 people evacuated their homes in low-lying areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama as the giant storm pushed relentlessly forward.

Betsy churned up tides swelling from six to 12 feet high as cut a swath across the evacuated Louisiana marshlands. This carnival city which fears high water more than it does howling winds, was almost deserted downtown. The gay French Quarter looked like a mainly gone through its subcommittee, has been well kept secret, several things are known.

At 8 p.m., Betsy's center was about 85 miles south-southeast of New Orleans. Its speed had increased from 18 to 22 miles per hour as the mighty winds tore into southeast Louisiana and the neighboring Mississippi coast.

"The center of Betsy will pass a little east of the city of New Orleans and serious flooding may occur just south of Lake Pontchartrain in Jefferson and Orleans parishes—counties—as the strong northerly winds force water over the seawall," forecasters said.

New Orleans, lying below sea level and between the lake and the Mississippi River, depends on levees and levees to prevent flooding.

Black and red hurricane warning flags were flying all along the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts as far east as Pensacola, Fla.

Betsy, which battered the Bahama Islands and southern tip of Florida earlier in the week, covers a 500-mile-wide area. Hurricane winds extended out 90 miles from the center, with gale winds running out 250 miles.

Pounding surf, raging tides and whistling winds rippled across the beaches in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida's Panhandle. One tornado dam-

aged a dozen boats at Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Gusts over 100 miles per hour were reported at Ploverton, near the mouth of the Mississippi River at dusk.

Grand Isle, 55 miles south of New Orleans and Burwood—southernmost point in Louisiana—were the first communities to get Betsy's full impact since the storm on Grand Isle.

The massive center was reported to slam inland along the Mississippi coast, an area of

fashionable homes, resort hotels and nightclubs.

Black and red hurricane warning flags were flying from Pensacola, Fla., westward to the Louisiana-Texas border.

Mississippi National Guardsmen and Civil Defense teams worked frantically through the afternoon and evening to evacuate low-lying sectors, threatened by 6 to 10-foot tides.

The storm menaced the world's longest man-made beach—a wide white sand strip stretching 28 miles from Pass Christian westward to Biloxi.

Facing the beach are fashionable private homes, motels and

hotels and entertainment spots.

Betsy already has wreaked havoc on two famed resorts—Nassau and South Florida. The hurricane left four dead and \$100 million in property damage in Florida.

The Weather Bureau warned that possible tornadoes peeling off from the storm might strike the resort area from Biloxi, Miss., westward to Apalachicola, Fla., during the night.

Before turning north, Betsy's fury seemed certain to strike Louisiana's marshlands. Upwards of 85,000 residents streamed to hastily set up evacuation centers inland.

They breathed a collective sigh of relief as the giant storm appeared to have skipped them.

The number of refugees in Mississippi was far less, as that state's coastal area generally is higher than Louisiana's.

Hurricanes are no strangers to Gulfport, Biloxi and other Mississippi coast towns. A 1947 storm killed 21 persons and caused millions of dollars in property loss.

Just north of the coast, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration closed down its huge rocket test facility. To the east at Biloxi, Keeler Air

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That's Chances Of Quick Cease-Fire Apear Slim

Tanks, Troops Locked In Battle On India's Northern Plains

NEW DELHI, India (AP)—Both sides reported tank battles Thursday and India said there was very heavy fighting between Indian and Pakistani armies as U.N. Secretary-General U Thant arrived in Pakistan on his peace mission in this tormented subcontinent.

Forces of the two nations were reported battling on the Delhi. Some thought China would initiate minor clashes along the vast India-Tibetan frontier in the hope of drawing troops away from Pakistan.

Officials in Washington and London voiced similar fears of Red China's intentions.

In the latest broadcast, Premier Chou En-lai of Red China told a reception at the North Korean Embassy in Peking that India was guilty of "crimes of aggression" against Pakistan with U.S. consent. He stopped short of saying China would lend military aid to Pakistan.

India troops lashed across the frontier near Lahore on northern Pakistan Monday and by Tuesday claimed they were threatening the city.

India followed up this drive Wednesday by launching twin attacks on a front near Pakistan's city of Sialkot, 60 miles north of Lahore; and 600 miles to the south in southeast Pakistan. The Indians claimed the latter drive penetrated six miles and captured the town of Gadr.

Now the main battle appeared to be on the Lahore front near the Pakistani city of Kasur and the Indian city of Peshawar, where Pakistan claims to have a penetration of Punjab Kasur is 30 miles south of Lahore. Peshawar is 10 miles inside India, 40 miles south of Lahore.

The developing battle there was viewed in New Delhi as highly important because it was a test of the main portions of

both armies' armored units and the air forces ground support fighters.

A Pakistani spokesman in Rawalpindi said India's offensive through this sector and into Pakistan territory had been thrown back across the international border and many Indians were captured.

He claimed Pakistani units also had stopped the two Indian attacks across the international frontier in the Sialkot and Gadr sectors.

Indians had hoped these attacks in the distant south and north would spread Pakistan's forces, preventing any massing of tank and infantry units for a counterattack.

An evening communique issued by New Delhi, however, indicated not all was going well on the battlefield. Its only reference to the progress of the fighting was:

"Reports received until this afternoon indicate that very heavy fighting is in progress in most sectors in Pakistan."

Aside from reporting the destruction of large numbers of tanks, the communique made no victory claims.

In southeast Kashmir, where the fighting began last week, a Pakistani spokesman said Indian troops were beaten back with heavy losses in trying to recapture Jaurian. The outpost

Continued on Page 19; 7th Col.

Thant, In Pakistan, Confers With Ayub On 'Very Grave' Border War Situation

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan—U.N. Secretary General Thant and President Mohammed Ayub Khan Thursday discussed the "very grave" situation caused by the "declared Indo-Kashmir border war. It was his first meeting with a leader of one of the governments involved.

Thant, on a peace mission ordered by the Security Council which later will take him to New Delhi, held his conference with the Pakistani president at Ayub's residence.

He met earlier with Pakistani Foreign Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Foreign Secretaries Aziz Ahmad and Agha Shauki. "The situation is very grave," Thant told reporters after his plane landed at Chaklala Airport on a flight from Karachi. The secretary general departed from New York Tuesday night

and stopped over in London. Thant's plane to Karachi was delayed 20 minutes in taking off by a report, later proved false, that Indian paratroopers had landed in the Pakistani city.

Thant reiterated he would have no statement on any of his meetings here or with Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in New Delhi before departing back to the Security Council.

Before his meeting with Ayub, the Pakistani Foreign Office officials briefed Thant on Pakistan's views regarding the conflict over Kashmir and a possible ceasefire. They touched on the entire problem of disputed areas in Kashmir which brought the border fighting.

The Security Council usually meets on Tuesday and Wednesday on both Pakistan and India.

to stop the hostilities and withdraw to the 400-mile ceasefire line drawn up by the U. N. in 1949 after an earlier border war.

Thant has said only that he would make "certain suggestions" to Pakistani and Indian leaders.

At Least 1,000 Canadians To Go Into Woods

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Labor Department has authorized the recruitment of between 1,000 and 1,500 Canadian wood choppers to work in Maine forests.

Rep. William D. Hathaway, D-Maine, in announcing this Thursday, said the Maine Employment Security Agency had certified that domestic labor was unavailable and that relaxation of department restrictions on imported workers was necessary. It requested authority for 1,500 workers.

Hathaway said he was not able to learn immediately from department officials the exact number of Canadians to be certified for entry.

Today's Chuckle

The man whose great-grandfather built a railroad through the wilderness with nobody's O.K. now has to get a permit to remodel his front porch.

Reed Boosts, Boots N.E. Council At Press Assn. Meet

By DONALD HANSON
State House Reporter

SCARBOROUGH—Matine's Gov. John H. Reed gave the New England Council both a boost and a boot Thursday night—praise for its development of the six-state region, but a black mark for failure to back the federal Dickey hydroelectric power project in northern Maine.

Reed told the New England Associated Press News Executives Association at Black Point Inn that while "I personally believe that it has done much toward development of the region it serves...I cannot endorse New England Council policies when they appear to conflict with the best interests of the state."

Reed called the \$277 million project on the St. John River "a great project for the state" and said he believed the New England Council—a semi-official promotional agency—should have supported it.

But, Reed said that although he feels the council has occasionally acted against the best interests of Maine "I hope that it will continue to provide many more years of substantial service."

Reed said that even though the New England governors may occasionally, individually or collectively, disagree with council policy, he feels in the long run it serves to promote the six-state region. Reed also told the New England editors that even though the six states must work as a region to promote the entire area, Continued on Page 31; 1st Col.



Gov. John H. Reed, right, meets with Ernest W. Chard, left, managing editor of the Portland newspapers and president of the New England Associated Press News Executives Association

and his vice president, William Clew, managing editor of the Hartford Courant, at the association's annual convention Thursday.

By Staff Photographer Merritt

News, Features On The Inside

The Weather
Occasional rain today; partly cloudy, probably rain late in day Saturday. Full Report Page 21.

NEW APPROACH to teaching math is here to stay. Page 7.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT stresses U.S. neutrality in the Indo-Pakistan conflict. Page 2.

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Prayer For Today

For our country we pray. O Lord, in these days of conflict beyond our borders give our leaders guidance and courage to lead us in the paths of peace. At some grant that we may enjoy leisure without becoming lazy. Save us from becoming soft lest our nation lose its strength. By Thy mercy grant us a new birth of freedom. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.

—J. R. Brakoff, Lavalle, Pa. pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church.

BILLY GRAHAM'S DENVER CRUSADE

8:30 P.M.

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