

Reed To Ask Local Airport Funds At Special Session

NEA Officials Outline Prospects For Future Maine Plane Service



Northeast's New 'Workhorse'
Northeast Airlines board chairman George B. Storer Jr., left, Gov. John H. Reed, and Northeast president James W. Austin look at a model of the firm's new FH227, at a state-sponsored dinner for NEA officials Tuesday night at Augusta. Austin and Storer said they expect the plane to be a "workhorse" in replacing the firm's older models.

By FRANK SLEEPER
Business Reporter
AUGUSTA — Gov. John H. Reed said Tuesday night he'll ask "substantial" appropriations for improvements at Portland Municipal Airport during the special session of the Legislature.

Speaking at a press conference held to welcome Northeast Airlines officials here, the governor wouldn't specify the amount of state funds he'll seek for these improvements.

"I'll have to take counsel from the Maine Aeronautics Commission on that," he told reporters.

But Scott Higgins, MAC director, said the amount will probably be \$750,000, or longer, more gradual approach to airport improvement.

Under the first phase of that plan, \$2,761,400 would be spent in 1966. A \$550,000 terminal building, aircraft parking apron, car parking facilities and service road would be included. There'd be an extension of the east-west runway to 7,000 feet, and a new north-south runway of 5,000 feet would be built.

The controversy over whether the Augusta Airport should be improved or a Central Maine airport in Sidney be built, didn't cool any as a result of the session with the NEA officials.

NEA President James Austin said there's a possibility the Augusta-Waterbury area will be able in the future to support enough traffic for jet plane service.

"If you don't have a facility that will handle jets, of course you'll never get such service," Austin said.

"I hope the Augusta-Waterbury area has EC-9 today," the NEA president asserted. "It would take some building and at the moment, I'd question it."

Austin and Northeast maintained their position that a single airport is all that can serve the Waterville-Augusta region.

"We don't think it's proper for Northeast to say where that airport should be," he said. "We want the best possible facilities for the most dependable service."

At one point in the press conference, Gov. Reed said he hoped that "something can be done in Augusta on the airport for this reason."

THE GOVERNOR said he'd had group meetings on the matter and hoped that something can be done, although he seemed doubtful whether it will be done at the special session.

Austin announced that a meeting of the special committee on transportation headed by E. Christopher Fowman of Portland had been postponed from Dec. 17 to Dec. 30 at Fowman's request.

At that meeting, reports for Northeast to say where the new planes Northeast is purchasing will explain lengths of runway on which the planes can land and take off.

Austin reported that the first flight of one of the new planes Northeast has purchased, the Boeing 727, will be Wednesday.

The NEA president recalled the 727s will be coming to Portland, Bangor and Presque Isle during the summer.

He said the Fairchild FH227s purchased by the line will operate into and out of all NEA serviced airports except Rockland, Augusta, Bar Harbor and Montpelier, Vt. without any restriction.

THE RESTRICTIONS on those four airports would call for reduced load on warm days and in certain other types of weather. "Of course, we'd rather operate our planes without restrictions," he noted.

George Storer Jr., NEA board chairman, predicted that freight revenues will be greater than passenger revenues on American airlines within five or six years and emphasized the importance of air freight.

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LBJ, Ayub Air Asian Problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pakistani President Mohammed Ayub Khan began a two-day state visit Tuesday with what he described as a very frank but friendly private talk with President Johnson about key Asian problems — the Kashmir dispute and Viet Nam.

Ayub, who urged full U.S. support for settlement of the 18-year-old Kashmir dispute between his country and India, said of his nearly two-hour session with Johnson:

"He listened to me very patiently, and I am heartened."

The husky, mustached soldier-statesman and Johnson arranged to meet again in private upstairs in the White House on Tuesday night's state dinner for the Asian leader.

Ayub, the first foreign chief of state welcomed by Johnson since last May 11, was given full red-carpet treatment — 21-gun salute, the herald of trumpets and an elite honor guard from all military services. The crowd's mood took on the White House south grounds' under a overcast sky.

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He said the purpose of his visit is to pay his respects to Johnson, "for whom I have the greatest regard."

"I told the President we were the only country in the world with the misfortune to be surrounded by three major powers," Ayub said without naming

India, the Soviet Union and Communist China.

"This does require flexibility on our part and understanding on our friends' part."

Ayub said. "It is inevitable that we look to the friendship with the United States instead of to the big countries around us. You have no expansionist ambitions and they do or may have."

Undersecretary of State George W. Ball, in a toast to Ayub, took note that "obviously there are occasions when we have differences of view" but he added: "One effective way to discuss them freely and not conceal or disguise our differences is to discuss them together under Soviet auspices at Tashkent in the Soviet Union on Jan. 4. The other will be a series of sessions Feb. 1-3 here in which Shastri will call on Johnson."

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Gemini 6 Gets 'Go' Signal For Space Chase Today

MANNED SPACE CENTER, Houston, Tex. (AP) — Hunter spacecraft Gemini 6, scheduled for a historic rendezvous with twinship Gemini 7, has a "go" signal for Wednesday's delayed space chase so vital to the United States' man-to-the-moon program.

Only the weather was a potential drawback to an 8:37 a.m. launch from Cape Kennedy, Fla.

"We're go at the moment and slightly ahead of schedule," launch officials said Tuesday night.

Weathermen predicted a return of the dense fog that shrouded the launch complex Tuesday morning, but said favorable conditions were developing and may keep the fog island away from the cape.

Had Gemini 6's blastoff been set for Tuesday morning, officials said, it would not have taken place. The fog did not burn off until about noon.

The Gemini 1 spacermen, Air Force Lt. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell Jr., — getting "crummy and litchy" after 10 days in space — were awed observers Tuesday to a fiery plunge back to earth of a Minuteman missile.

"Ball's-eye" Borman cried, when a tracking station asked whether he had seen the Minuteman, launched 20 minutes earlier from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, streak back into the atmosphere after a 5,000-mile flight.

It was a spectacular sight, mission control said, and Borman sounded elated. But as the Gemini 7 pilots sped on in space, their attention was centered mainly on a launching pad at Cape Kennedy, Fla.

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NATO Fate May Be Sealed In Viet Nam, Rusk Warns

PARIS (AP) — Secretary of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara is to make the day that the fate of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization may be sealed on the battlefield of South Viet Nam.

He said success there might lead the Communists to similar ventures elsewhere.

Rusk told the NATO ministers meeting that the U.S. commitment all over the world to prevent Communist aggression are "a main pillar of peace."

Calling for understanding of U.S. policy in Viet Nam, he asked what it would mean if the United States honored a commitment in one area and abandoned it in another.

Later in the day, France challenged U.S. plans to share mutual responsibility with other members of NATO, notably West Germany.

The French questioned the status of a special committee set up recently by 10 NATO foreign ministers at the suggestion

of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara to consider the problem of nuclear sharing.

The NATO foreign, defense and finance ministers met in closed session for their annual year-end discussion of world and alliance problems. NATO officials gave a report to newsmen later.

In what appeared to be an appeal for a demonstration of NATO support, Rusk asked the allies to send doctors and engineers to South Viet Nam, but he asked for no military support.

Rusk also appealed to an end to criticism of U.S. policy in Viet Nam, voiced most strongly by France but to a lesser degree by some other NATO allies.

The secretary said that the Communists must be shown that the United States will not allow Southeast Asia to be overrun if the Reds are to believe that the United States will fight to defend Europe.

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Presidents Begin Talks
President Johnson and Pakistani President Mohammed Ayub Khan, chat in Johnson's office at the White House after Khan's arrival Tuesday.

Schedule For Rendezvous

MANNED SPACE CENTER, Houston, Tex. (AP) — Here is the timetable for the scheduled historic rendezvous with twinship Gemini 7, has a "go" signal for Wednesday's delayed space chase so vital to the United States' man-to-the-moon program.

1:48 p.m. — Gemini 6 begins 30-minute terminal phase by increasing speed another 25 miles an hour. Gemini 6 now is 17 miles below and 39 miles behind Gemini 7.

2:07 p.m. — Gemini 7 turns around, so both vehicles are flying forward, with Gemini 6 about 3,000 feet behind.

2:19 p.m. — Gemini 6 slows its speed by 29 miles an hour. Seconds later, fine adjustments permit Gemini 6 to match the speed of Gemini 7 and rendezvous starts over the Mariana Islands in the western Pacific with the ships 100 feet apart.

2:34 p.m. to 3:04 p.m. — Gemini 6 executes 30-minute orbital maneuver, slowly circling Gemini 7.

3:13 p.m. — Gemini 6 pulls 53 miles away from Gemini 7 after six hours of rendezvous.

Reluctant NATO Allies May Force U.S. To Pull Units In Europe For Viet Duty

PARIS (UPI) — Fast-increasing demands for manpower triggered by the war in Viet Nam may force the U.S. to pull some of its troops out of Europe, authoritative sources said Tuesday.

The lack of support for the war by the continental European NATO allies may prompt a withdrawal, the sources said, although there are no plans for it at the moment.

American officials have made it clear the western allies must play a greater defense role.

The U.S. insists they should at least share the defense burden within Europe while America is forced to commit more manpower, money and resources into containing Communist aggression in Southeast Asia.

The officials expect growing pressure from American public opinion to point a finger at the accumulation of U.S. military strength in Europe while the draft was being increased at home.

Most U.S. forces in Europe are stationed in West Germany. The U.S. acknowledges its commitment for the continued defense of Europe and does not want to pull any out, the sources said.

But there was growing concern over involvement in the sins of the world. We rejoice that there has sent us to a Red emperor. Accepting His name we would ally our power with His. Mindful that to live in to change, we would grow into the likeness of our Lord, we would be transfigured by His love. In His name we pray. Amen.

—John Marvin Rest, Columbia, S.C., Methodist religious columnist.

Jets Spew Fire, Bombs On Red Escape Routes

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — U.S. jets spewed fire and bombs Tuesday into Communist escape routes in Death Valley south of Da Nang, but scattering Viet Cong regiment still eluded U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese troops trying to trap it.

Allied officials estimated that in the seven days of Operation Harvest Moon 350 miles north of Saigon, air and ground strikes have killed about 1,200 of the 3,700-man Communist force and aborted Viet Cong plans to overrun three government strongholds in a pre-Christmas push.

Action elsewhere was light. U.S. Army troops found a series of abandoned Viet Cong camps 15 and 33 miles north of Saigon. Heavy rain once again canceled out air attacks on North Viet Nam.

U.S. intermaris at Plietku reported a U.S. Air Force C123 cargo plane with four American crewmen and 17 Vietnamese soldiers missing on a flight along the South Vietnamese coast. They said the plane left Saigon on Sunday for Nha Trang. The mission was not disclosed.

The Marines in Death Valley called for air strikes in three sectors of the 90-mile valley in an effort to plug up Communist exits eastward toward Laos and to the south abed.

High-flying B2 bombers from Guam bombed suspected Viet Cong concentrations in rice paddies and foothills five miles south of Hiep Duc, one of the government strongholds believed destined for Communist attack.

The Strategic Air Command jets pocked the valley floor and a mountainside with high cratering.

"Beautiful!" exclaimed the Marine task force commander, Brig. Gen. Joaze Platt, as he watched the bombing runs.

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Prayer For Today

Eternal God, our Father, source of life and truth and love, we bow humbly before Thee. We pray that our concern for eternal values may approach Thine own. We seek thy involvement in the sins of the world. We rejoice that there has sent us to a Red emperor. Accepting His name we would ally our power with His. Mindful that to live in to change, we would grow into the likeness of our Lord, we would be transfigured by His love. In His name we pray. Amen.

—John Marvin Rest, Columbia, S.C., Methodist religious columnist.

Today's Chuckle

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