

# Amtrak faces cutback

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Acting Transportation Secretary W. Graham Claytor said Tuesday he will recommend that President Carter veto Amtrak funding legislation if Congress blocks the administration's proposed passenger train cutbacks.

Claytor's statement came as the House prepared to take up a bill which would cut many routes the Transportation Department considers uneconomical.

A major passenger train cutback seemed inevitable several months ago as Amtrak's losses mounted.

But Americans have returned to trains by the thousands since the gasoline crisis put a squeeze on automobile travel, and numerous amendments are pending to save many or all the threatened trains.

House action came four days after the firing of Transportation Secretary Brock Adams, who mounted a months-long lobbying effort for his proposal to cut 43 percent of Am-

trak's 27,700 route miles next Oct. 1.

However, the House bill — as written by the Commerce Committee and accepted by the administration — would keep several routes and amendments to save even more are expected to be passed and accepted by the administration.

But one proposal is unacceptable to the administration — an amendment by Reps. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., and Wyche Fowler, D-Ga., to freeze the system and allow no cutbacks at all.

Their main interest is the Chicago-Miami Floridian, which would not be saved under any of the formulas acceptable to the administration.

Other trains all but certain to be cut unless there is a freeze are the Boston-Catlettsburg, Ky. "Hilltopper," The Chicago-Seattle "Hiawatha," and the Chicago-Houston "Lone Star."

Adams, and now Claytor, says these routes lose too much money and are not energy-efficient.

# Confidence crisis up to the people, says Carter man

WASHINGTON — President Carter's pollster Patrick Caddell said Tuesday Americans' pessimism about their own lives and the nation's future has increased so dramatically the government may be unable to do anything about it.

The erosion of confidence in America began during Vietnam and Watergate, he said, and now has reached serious proportions.

He agreed with press secretary Jody Powell's assessment that more people distrust their officials now than during Watergate, and that "personal pessimism is higher now than it was at the height of Watergate and Vietnam and the oil embargo."

Caddell was interviewed by UPI about his stark findings that provided much of the material for Carter's "crisis of confidence"

speech nine days ago and for Caddell's assessment Monday.

The pollster said he based findings on quarterly surveys of 1,500 to 2,000 people during conversations of 2 to 2½ hours on a broad range of subjects. He said he checked his results with polls by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Roper, Gallup and others — and found them consistent.

Caddell, now 29, attained prominence at 23 as Sen. Gen. McGovern's pollster during his presidential campaign.

Both Caddell and Powell stressed the Carter administration had to do with the cause of the decline but the people's pessimism is nationwide, having to do with structures of society, not with individual leaders.

It was, he said, unusual optimism that has always prided itself on being eternally optimistic, exempt from historical cycles downward trends.

Caddell said the pessimism — to which Carter alluded in his address — was something beyond government's ability to soften. He acknowledged this may have drawn the attention of Carter, the professing Christian, and that is why some of his speeches sounded almost theological.

"The president made it clear Sunday night that he does not need for making changes in his leadership and in the administration to put us in a better position lead in times such as these," he said.

"A lot of this has been happening for a long time," Caddell said, took a lot to knock a little bit. There is an accumulation of events then all of a sudden it becomes serious."

He said the erosion of confidence began in the late 1960s and 1970s, with a small upswing in the early 1977 which he attributed to the Bicentennial celebration, the election of Carter, a new view as a decent man of faith.

J.L. Loftis responded to Andrus' suggestion Monday that Exxon has been slow to develop oil and gas production in the Santa Barbara Channel.

"With regard to our leases in the Santa Ynez Unit of the Santa Barbara Channel, we have been consistently stymied by government regulatory and permitting problems since exploration began there 10 years ago," Loftis said.

"Had it not been for the years of regulatory and permitting problems Exxon since 1975 could have been producing up to 30,000 barrels of vitally needed domestic oil and 30 million cubic feet of natural gas a day."

Then confidence plunged downward. "The velocity really seemed to increase," Caddell said. "We're falling to levels much worse than the time before."

Caddell said inflation — more than unemployment — is as much as anything to do with the pessimism.

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# Oil companies not liable for crisis: Exxon

HOUSTON — An Exxon Co. USA vice president Tuesday said government — not the oil companies — is responsible for delay in developing undersea petroleum reserves off the coast of southern California.

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