Buy one, get one almost free

Airline price war soaring

United Press International

DALLAS - Air travelers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area Thursday were able to get two airline tickets for the price of one to more than 90 cities. The deal was the latest escalation of the price war between Braniff International and its two major competitors, American Airlines and Delta Airlines.

Braniff announced the two-for-one sale — specifying that tickets must be purchased within a 48-hour period starting at 12:01 Thursday morning.

Claiming American "will not permit itself to be undersold by a competitor," officials of that airline matched Braniff's price cut late Wednesday afternoon.

The two airlines are offering the deals on round-trip tickets only. Braniff charges $1 for the second ticket but American announced that second tickets would be free.

The free ticket does not have to be in the same name or to the same destination as the original ticket. However, the value of the ticket must be the same as, or less than, the original ticket.

Delta Airlines, caught in the midst of an advertising campaign proclaiming "Delta will not be undersold," said it also would give a $1 price for a second ticket.

As it has in the past, American criticized the price cutting initiated by Braniff.

"In light of the difficult economic conditions facing the airline industry today, American was surprised to learn that a major competitor was proposing a give-away plan that can do nothing but decrease revenues and undermine the financial strength of the industry,"said Robert W. Baker, American's vice president for passenger sales and advertising. "Such pricing schemes are irresponsible and ill-advised.

Verdict stacks deportation odds

United Press International

NEW ORLEANS — Reputed Mafia boss Carlos Marcello's recent convictions for bribery in Louisiana and California can be used as ammunition to have him deported, a federal judge ruled.

Marcello's defense attorney Mark Mancini reacted bitterly to U.S. District Judge Morey Sear's opinion Wednesday, saying his client should be treated like an American convicted of a crime instead of like a foreigner subject to deportation.

Attorneys for the so-called "Little Man" of Gulf Coast crime had asked Sear to bar the federal government from using Marcello's conviction in the Louisiana Brilab trial as a lever to enforce a 29-year-old deportation order against him.

"I see no reason at all for me to grant or recommend against deportation, and the motion is denied," Sear said.

Sear's decision will not be appealed, Mancini said.

"He is an American criminal, but not a Tunisian criminal," Mancini said, "and the fact he's being treated differently than an American criminal is difficult to accept."

Marcello was brought to the United States from Tunisia by his parents when he was 5 months old.

Mancini had urged Sear to grant the motion in consideration of Marcello's age, 72, and family and business ties in the United States.

"It is my opinion he loves the U.S. as much as anyone else does, as much as any U.S. citizen," Mancini said. "I believe he should be able to spend his last years following his prison sentence in the country he knows as home."

Sear presided over the four-month Brilab trial last year in which Marcello was found guilty of scheming to obtain state insurance business through bribery and kickbacks.

Marcello, who was not in the courtroom Wednesday, was sentenced to seven years in prison. He is appealing that conviction.

U.S. Attorney John Volz called the ruling a substanstantial step toward Marcello's deportation, although he will face no expulsion proceedings until he serves his bribery sentence and whatever sentence he receives for his 1981 conviction in a California bribery case.

Marcello's record also includes convictions for assault and robbery in 1930 and assault of an FBI agent in 1968. The 1953 deportation order was based on a 1938 drug conviction for which Marcello was later pardoned.

Immigration laws allow the deportation of a non-resident alien convicted of at least two crimes involving moral turpitude or a narcotics violation.

25 held in refugee smuggling

United Press International

EL PASO — A Border Patrol official says charges may be filed against 25 people arrested for smuggling illegal aliens during a crackdown last weekend. A 20-year-old Mexican national has already been charged in the case.

Jack Richardson, acting chief agent for the Border Patrol in El Paso, said Sergio Chavez Garcia, 20, reportedly tried to walk 21 refugees from Guatemala and El Salvador across the border and place them in motels late Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for the magistrate's office said the Mexican national was charged with illegally transporting the refugees, four of whom were charged as material witnesses.

Richardson said Wednesday the others were being held in a Border Patrol detention center to await transportation back to their countries, and that charges against the 25 people arrested last weekend were still being considered.

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2 FOR 1 HAPPY HOUR 6:00-8:00
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