

Airline suit revoked

United Press International
DALLAS — A federal judge has dismissed the Justice Department's 7-month-old antitrust suit against American Airlines, saying a suggestion by its president that American and Braniff International raise their fares did not merit the charges.

The suit was based on a telephone conversation between American President Robert Crandall and Braniff President Howard Putnam on Feb. 1, 1982, 3 1/2

months before Braniff declared bankruptcy.

According to a transcript of the call, secretly taped by Putnam, Crandall told his competitor: "Raise your (expletive) fares 20 percent. I'll raise mine the next morning. You'll make more money and I will too."

U.S. District Judge Robert Hill ruled Monday that Crandall's suggestion, while "unprofessional" and "distasteful," did not constitute a conspiracy to monopolize

the market under the federal Sherman Antitrust Act.

"Without an allegation of an agreement between Crandall and Putnam or an allegation that American alone possessed sufficient market power to attempt to monopolize on its own," the government's complaint should be dismissed, Hill wrote in his 19-page ruling.

In its suit, the Justice Department had sought to have Crandall removed from his position for two years and to have the airline barred from discussing prices with competitors for 10 years.

Crandall was out of town and could not be reached for immediate comment, but his wife said he was relieved.

American spokesman Lowell Duncan said the airline was gratified and that Crandall was pleased.

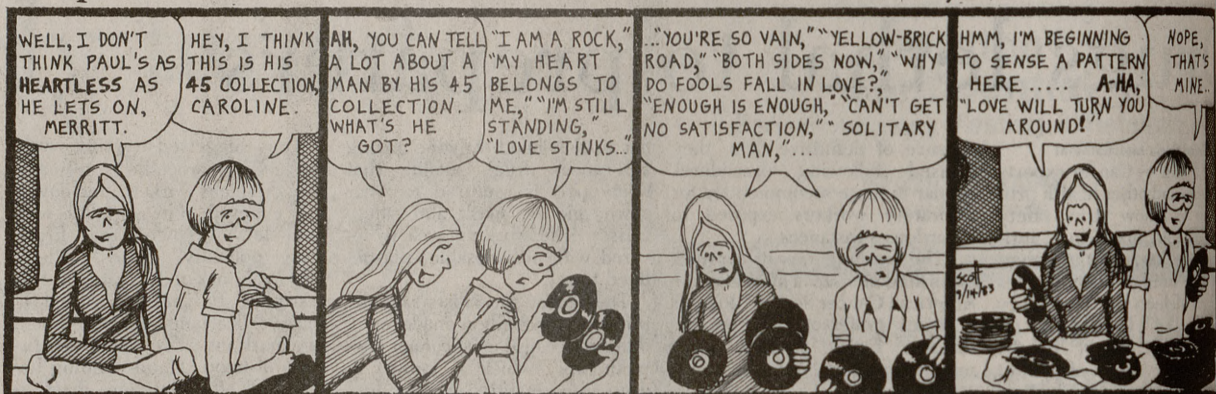
Putnam declined comment, saying the matter was entirely between American and the Justice Department.

The conversation between Crandall and Putnam occurred as the two airlines were involved in a fierce fare war begun by Braniff in the fall of 1981.

Braniff, which declared bankruptcy in May 1982 with nearly \$1 billion in debts, is currently attempting to gain approval from its creditors for a plan to resume limited operations with funding and support from Hyatt Corp.

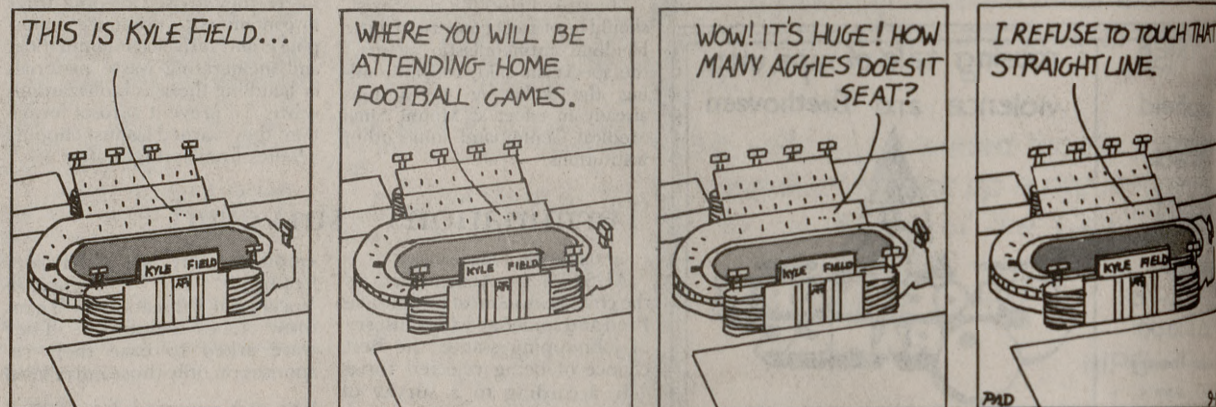
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Survival games opposition sounds off

United Press International
DALLAS — Critics call them war games and accuse participants of acting out make-believe murders, but sponsors say they are just an adult version of Capture the Flag, a children's game.

The controversy centers around National Survival Games, a New Hampshire based firm that

sells dealerships for their products to local businessmen such as Bob Archer, a former Marine who holds "survival" games in the Arlington area during weekends.

"It's a game," Archer said. "It affords adults the opportunity to play as children."

The object of the game is to capture the flag of the opponents' team without being tagged which in this game involves a pistol, which fires paint pellets.

Archer insisted the pistol, powered by carbon dioxide, is "not a gun but an extension of their (participants') hand as in the game of tag."

The .72-caliber pistols, marketed by Nelson Paint Co. of Kingsford, Mich., fire marble-sized pellets of paint.

"It's not a firearm," said Kurt

Maslowski, Nelson's general manager, who explained the pistol was developed about 10 years ago as a means for marking cattle or trees.

Maslowski said sales to National Survival Games now account for about half of his company's business, and he said Nelson Paint has no qualms about selling its pistols to weekend commandos.

"We're in business with them," he said. "We don't have any negative reactions certainly."

But the National Coalition on Television Violence heartily objects to the whole thing.

"Having people actually going out and practicing murdering people is a serious thing," said Dr. Thomas Radecki, the coalition's national chairman.

"Basically we're quite concerned about using full-scale war

games for adults as a form of entertainment. Although the distributors of this game claim that it helps people get rid of their aggression, we've polled 12 of the nation's leading aggression researchers and they say otherwise."

Radecki admitted there has been no research done specifically on the game, but he said that among participants it probably "increases pro-war attitudes as well as desensitizing them to violence."

Radecki's group has complained to the Federal Communications Commission about television commercials advertising the game, and he hopes to testify before a congressional subcommittee in Washington this fall to voice objections to the game.

Radecki said he was not calling for a ban, but his group wants to publicize the game's potential danger.

"I have some concerns about the spreading survivalist movement, which is separate from the game but certainly similar," he said.

Eric Rannisto, an official at National Survival Games' home office, said the company has no connection to any survivalist group despite the company name.

"We do what we have to do day to day to disavow any connection with any survivalist or paramilitary group," he said.

"We've attracted some fringe types," he said. "We're unable to screen dealers. What we do is we make a very consistent, concerted effort to stay away from any gun-toting, any gun-running types. You know, people who are openly into guns on a serious level."

But he also would not condemn the survivalist movement.

"What we pulled up short of doing is openly repudiating the survivalist movement. We do feel that that falls within our purview," he said.

"The activity we conduct is absolutely nonmilitary," Archer said.

Archer and Gerry Chau, 29, are the two men who handle National Survival Game dealerships in the Dallas area. Chau said the game is simply a sport.

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