

Continental negotiations with pilots break down

United Press International

HOUSTON — Negotiations between Continental Airlines and its striking pilots unions broke off Thursday when it was determined by a mediator that both sides were deadlocked on a back-to-work agreement.

Talks had resumed Thursday in Los Angeles with the Air Line Pilots Association, but after two and a half hours of discussions, mediator Benjamin Aaron, a University of Southern California law professor, said there was no reason to continue because neither side would budge.

Continental spokesman Bruce Hicks said the company was ready to negotiate a "flexible, innovative" contract, but "we could reach no agreement."

Hicks said the pilots were demanding that Continental displace all pilots hired since the strike began in October and rehire a number of pilots who had come back to

active staff. They also asked to demote pilots who had been promoted during this time period, Hicks said, and the

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company would not do it.

"Just as in December, when the last negotiations broke off over this issue, we again felt we could have reached an agreement on wages, work rules and productivity. But this back-to-work demand that would displace the active employees who have kept this company alive and saved thousands of jobs was the overriding issue," Hicks said.

Meanwhile, negotiations with the Union of Flight Attendants, which began Tuesday, continued Thursday in Houston.

Continental filed for Chapter 11 reorganization Sept. 26, cut its payroll by two-thirds and used lower paid employees to start flying a reduced schedule.

Pilots and flight attendants struck the airline in protest, and went to bankruptcy court seeking to have Continental's reorganization thrown out as illegal. A judge recently ruled Continental's bankruptcy is proper.

Bankruptcy Judge R.F. Wheelless Jr. ordered both sides to try to reach an accommodation before a scheduled hearing next week on Continental's petition to officially void its labor contracts as too expensive.

Continental unofficially already has voided those contracts.

A&M prof works on soil tester

By LESLIE MARTIN
Reporter

As a graduate student at Texas A&M in 1971, Dale Pennington designed a lift device for an automated soil tester. But school and work took priority over the development of his invention, so he wasn't able to work on it again for more than a decade.

"I had to choose between finishing school or the soil tester and I decided that getting my degree came first," Pennington said.

He received a bachelor's degree in agricultural education and a master's and doctorate in

soil science from Texas A&M. The desire to finish his invention stayed with him though, and now 13 years later the dream has become a reality.

The first soil testing machine, built from items around Pennington's house, has been in use since May at the Agricultural Extension Service laboratory in Lubbock where he works. It frees the employees from the monotonous task of testing some 4,000 soil samples the lab receives in the busy months of January and February. This is the busiest time of the year for the lab because farmers want their soil tested before they buy fertilizer for that season.

The machine is a motorized assembly line that moves the soil samples through the testing process. The lift Pennington devised while at Texas A&M plays a vital part in this process. It lowers a probe into the sample to determine the amount of nitrogen nitrate in the soil.

Pennington calls his invention the Lubbock Automated Soil Analysis System. He recently built a second model and up-

graded the first one. Someday he hopes to have four machines that will tie into a computer system, but that will have to wait.

"We are receiving no financial help right now," he said, "I am funding the project on my own." Pennington is busy contacting people in hopes of obtaining a grant to continue development of the machine.

He also has begun the paperwork to patent the invention that had its beginning so long ago at Texas A&M.

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'The Day After' shown in Poland

United Press International

WARSAW — The Polish military Thursday accused Washington of planning a nuclear strike in a statement timed to build interest in the first showing in a Communist state of the U.S. nuclear war movie "The Day After."

On the day Polish television was screening the ABC film depicting a nuclear holocaust in Kansas, top army analyst Col. Kazimierz Nozki said the world was faced with a tremendous military buildup.

"There is only one conclusion that can be drawn after seeing this film: A nuclear holocaust will spare nobody and the country which triggered it will be wiped from the surface of the world," the independent newspaper Zycie Warszawy said.

"It is no exaggeration to say that the world never faced a more dangerous situation since its formation than that with which it is confronted now," Nozki told the state-run PAP news agency.

"American commanders and

war theoreticians assume that a possible war will open with a strategic nuclear strike designed to instantaneously destroy the defense capability of the Warsaw Pact nations and crush any will to resist," said Nozki.

Nozki, a senior research analyst at the army's General Staff Academy, added that "a massive use of nuclear weapons on the territories of the socialist states, including Poland, is expected to secure victory for the West."

"This is why the introduction of the new American missile systems in western Europe is being watched with such concern. They are to deliver nuclear warheads against our towns of unparalleled power," Nozki said.

The Nozki interview made no mention of nuclear missiles deployed by the Soviet Union.

His remarks, prime-time television announcements and mostly anti-Western press comment on the dangers of nuclear conflict over the last few days built up interest in Poland for the broadcast of the controversial film.

"There is only one conclusion that can be drawn after seeing this film: A nuclear holocaust will spare nobody and the country which triggered it will be wiped from the surface of the world," the independent newspaper Zycie Warszawy said.

The movie, which features shocking scenes of mass destruction, has been shown in many western European countries but never before at full-length in a communist country.



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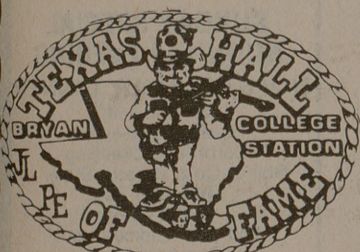
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