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Continental Airlines reports profits

Union supports striking pilots

United Press International
HOUSTON — Members of the Airline Pilots Association have voted to continue fighting alleged unfair labor practices by Continental Airlines and to pay for the fight through a member assessment, a spokesman said Monday.
About 1,500 Continental pilots have been on strike for 13 months following the airline's reorganization in federal bankruptcy court, Jerry Baldwin said.
The union also voted to continue strike benefits of \$2,400 per month for striking pilots.

In ballots counted over the weekend, 13,304 voted for and 4,564 voted against the proposals, Baldwin said. ALPA represents 34,000 pilots, but only 24,446 were eligible to vote, he said.
Union President Henry A. Duffy said the vote represents an aggressive commitment to long-term support by the membership.
Ongoing legal actions include an appeal of the bankruptcy filing, an appeal of the bankruptcy court's approval for Continental to abrogate its labor contracts, a \$100 million lawsuit against Continental alleging

unfair labor practices, the defense against a countersuit by Continental and a dispute over the pension funds payable to striking pilots.
Baldwin said 1,346 pilots were employed by Continental before it filed for bankruptcy and several hundred others were on furlough. About 523 have returned to work for Continental and 1,500 are on strike, he said. Of the strikers, 810 are "actively participating by devoting 15 days a month to strike activities," he said.
Continental Airlines Monday reported a net income of \$28.5 million

in July and August, compared to \$24.2 million net loss in the two months in 1983.
Operating revenues for the period were \$239 million compared to \$234.4 million in 1983. Operating income was \$36.9 million compared to a \$13.1 million loss for the two months in 1983.
A Continental spokesman mentioned that July and August figures should not be used to predict September income because September is normally a weak traffic month.

Researchers working to keep mites off bees

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department announced an effort Monday to research ways to stop the spread of the bee-threatening "acarine mite" — discovered in the United States in Texas in July and now found in at least six states.
The microscopic, parasitic mite lives in the respiratory system of bees, so a key research problem is to find a pesticide that kills the mite without killing honey bees.
Discovered for the first time in this country in July at a Texas bee colony near the Mexican border, the mites have been found in Nebraska, South Dakota, New York, Florida and Louisiana. State and federal

quarantines have been put in place to block movement of bees from mite-infested areas.
The Agriculture Department said the research effort will evaluate miticides used in Europe and will search for mite-resistant strains of bees. Other research approaches will look at ways to diagnose hundreds of bees at a time and to evaluate mite-preventing treatments of bees.
Finally, there will be an effort to assess the possible economic impact of the mite on North American agriculture. The mites pose a threat because they weaken bees, which pollinate crops that provide one-third of sustenance for Americans and U.S. livestock. The mite is found in many

other countries with large agricultural production.
Another agency of the department, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said 2,878 bee colonies have been exterminated since discovery of the mite in the United States. At an average of 50,000 bees per colony, that amounts to 144 million bees killed. Technical advisers last week, however, recommended an end to the killing of bees until the size of the problem is known.
Terry Kinney Jr., administrator of the research agency, said protecting the \$30 million U.S. industry of packaged queen and worker bees is of primary concern. Each spring

breeders in the south and California ship bees to beekeepers in northern states and Canada. American beekeepers also ship bees abroad.
Kinney said William Wilson, government bee specialist, will spend four months in Texas, where the mite was discovered, to map search strategies.
Another bee scientist, Alfred Metz of the University of Georgia, work with the government's Environmental Bee Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., to develop treatments to ensure queens and aged bees are free of the parasite.



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