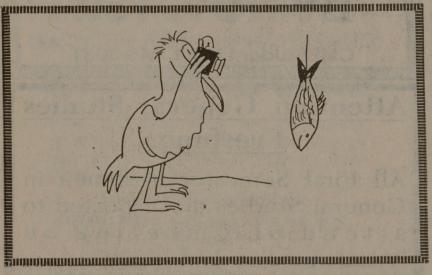
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Continental Airlines reports profits

Union supports striking pilots

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 n federal bankruptcy court, Jerry Baldwin said.

The union also voted to continue strike benefits of \$2,400 per month for striking pilots.

end, 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,

Union President Henry A. Duffy said the vote represents an aggressive commitment to longterm 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 \$24.2 million net loss in the two months in 1983.

Operating revenues for the riod were \$239 million compare \$234.4 million in 1983. Operation of the compare of the riod were \$234.4 million in 1983. income was \$36.9 million com to a \$13.1 million loss for the s

two months in 1983. A Continental spokesman of tioned that July and August figs should not be used to predicts tember income because Septer normally and was this year as ally weak traffic month

Vol. 81

Researchers working to keep mites off bees

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-pre-

venting 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 Cali ship bees to beekeepers in nor states and Canada. American keepers also ship bees abroad.

Kinney said William Wilson government bee specialist spend four months in Texas, the mite was discovered, to may

search strategies.

Another bee scientist, Allied etz of the University of Georga

work with the government's Biographics ronmental Bee Laboraton Beltsville, Md., to develop ments to ensure queens and aged bees are free of the paras

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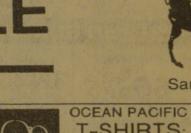
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