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**Merger**  
*Continental delays union of Muse Air and Southwest*

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Continental Airlines' "last-minute" intervention into the proposed merger between Southwest Airlines and Muse Air might force Southwest to withdraw its offer to take over ailing Muse, an attorney for Southwest said Tuesday.

Paul Seligson, a Washington attorney representing Southwest, said Continental's objection to the merger is "obviously just a delaying tactic in order to stall the merger — and stalling the merger could kill Muse."

The Department of Transportation has to approve the merger. The Justice Department has given its blessing.

Southwest told DOT last Friday "we had to have a decision by this Friday or we were going to have to consider other actions," including withdrawal from the merger or a lawsuit against DOT, Seligson said. A DOT spokesman said no decision was expected this week.

Continental spokesman Mike Cinnelli said Continental only wants DOT to decide whether Continental can

use Love Field, an in-town Dallas airport from which flights are restricted. This restriction forces larger airlines to use Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, located between Dallas and Fort Worth. Southwest had maintained a virtual lock on use of Love Field until Muse mounted its challenge to Southwest four years ago.

The DOT tentatively approved the merger with the understanding that it would not hurt competition, Cinnelli said.

Seligson said, however, the Department of Justice told DOT last Friday that the issue of competition is moot because the Southwest-Muse merger qualifies for approval under the "failing company doctrine."

He said the airline set the Friday deadline because Muse must pay \$7.1 million to creditors by the end of the month, and Southwest's officers have decided not to loan Muse any more operating money.

Also, in its merger agreement with Muse, Southwest agreed to stay with the merger plan at least until June 22, Seligson said. Muse stockholders vote on the merger on Thursday.

**Hijack**

(continued from page 1)

pistol next to her head and pulling the trigger.

"I felt very guilty that I was leaving those men on the plane," Sharon Barnes, 30, of Bar Harbor, Maine, said of the estimated 45 passengers aboard the hijacked TWA jetliner still being held in Lebanon.

She returned home Monday with several other passengers released after TWA Flight 847 was hijacked Friday as it left Athens en route to Rome.

Dorothy Tressler, 62, of Braintree, Mass., also returned home Monday, describing the hijacking as "terrifying — the most horrifying experience you ever had in your life." But she added that her Shiite Moslem captors were "very, very compassionate."

The parents of an 18-year-old hostage who was released Tuesday wept with relief on learning their son was free after more than four days.

"Now is the time to smile," said Nicholas Targontsidis, 55, of Brockton, Mass., after learning of his son Arthur's release along a Greek singer and his secretary.

A friend and neighbor of the Tar-

gontsidis family, David Linde, said an unidentified Brockton man who knows Shiite militia leader Nabih Berri had called Beirut on Monday night to plead for Arthur's freedom. He wouldn't give the man's name, saying "it wouldn't be healthy for him..."

"It was like a gift being dropped in our laps," Linde said of the offer of help. "I don't know if it helped or not. It sure couldn't hurt."

Yellow ribbons began appearing on trees in hometowns of those still being held in Beirut in a tribute reminiscent of days when Americans were held hostage in Iran five years ago.

"This really brings it home," said Jack Pointer of Richmond, Mo., a friend of pilot John L. Testrake, 57. "This is terrorism right here in downtown America."

Residents of the town of 5,500 flew flags and began tying ribbons to trees as they continued prayer vigils for Testrake's safe return.

Ribbons also fluttered outside St. Margaret Mary Roman Catholic church in Algonquin, Ill. — 18 of the congregations' members were aboard the hijacked plane and four remained captive in Beirut, along with two priests from neighboring towns.

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