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Whitmire, council still disagree over sehiring of workers

HOUSTON (AP) — City council mbers and Mayor Kathy White remained split Tuesday on the of 83 sanitation workers who re fired during a protest over lays and increased workloads. Whitmire dismissed the workers

week after they went to the city's r solid waste service centers and used supervisors' directives to go vork

A four-hour meeting Monday been the mayor and four council mbers ended with no resolution. ne council members want the orkers reinstated, while Whitmire pposed to letting them return to

We really don't have anything to nounce," Whitmire said after the ening meeting. "That's why we dn't invite the press."

The mayor said the talks were oductive, but she refused to say hitmire "has shown a willingness ice Commission.

Late mail

to listen," and hoped that further talks would provide a breakthrough. If Whitmire accepts amnesty, the workers will still pay a price for the wildcat strike, such as a two- or fourweek suspension without pay, officials said. The average laborer earns

about \$350 per week Meanwhile, city crews supple-mented by temporary workers were sent out on all 137 city routes as the Solid Waste Management Department continued its efforts to restore normal collection schedules.

The wildcat strike began Aug. 18 when 400 of the city's garbage collec-tion drivers and laborers began a protest of extended working days and other working conditions.

The councilmen have pushed Whitmire to rehire the workers, but she has said the workers were fired for an illegal strike and are being replaced with workers laid off earlier.

Councilman Rodney Ellis said have appealed to the city Civil Serv-

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WHO COULD ASK FOR MORE?

HOUSTON (AP) — During orld War II, Charles Reass wrote undying love for his young bride, o was finally able to read what he delayed due to a problem in the milid to say this week when the Postal tary — and not with postal workers. As an Army private, Reass wrote rvice delivered a batch of 42-yearthe letters to his wife of 19 months Houston Postmaster Samuel while on board a troopship bound reen Jr. on Monday presented the from Virginia to North Africa. ght letters with apologies for the "When I say, 'I love you,' it

When I say, 'I love you,' it means aved delivery to Charles Reass that every morning when I open my eyes, I love you more than when I laid down, and each night when I lay me down I love you more when I wake up," one of the letters said.

Opening one of the lettes, Reass studied one for a moment, and then said, "I suspect these are a little on the mushy side."

Reass' letters to his wife, his parents, an aunt and a service buddy were among 235 pieces of V-Mail found recently in an attic in Raleigh,

A young man from Raleigh, now dead, was to have mailed the letters, but for reasons unknown, did not do

Instead, he left a duffel bag full of mail in his aunt's attic.

V-Mail sheets were a combination letter and envelope supplied to serv-icemen on uniform stationery.

They were mailed free of charge and accorded preferential sorting and transportation.

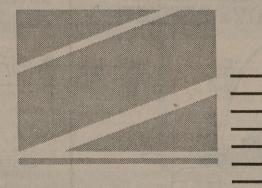
A pest control operator recently discovered the mail while working in the aunt's attic and turned them over to the Postal Service.

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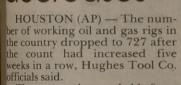




Number of active rigs decreases

letters.

d his wife, Eunice.



The count dropped 11 from last week's total of 738, company officials said Monday. Last year at this time the count was 1,940. In July, the rig count hit an all-time low of 663, officials said. Before 1971, the lowest num-

ber was 805 rigs working in April 1943, according to officials of the oil tool maker that has kept industry statistics since 1940.

More than 1,000 rigs have een idle since December when oil prices began to decline, falling as low as \$9 a barrel. Since Dec. 23, the rig count has dropped steadily from 1,995, officials said. In contrast, 4,500 rigs were active in December 1981.

Couple receives lost letters husband wrote during WWII "I knew the post office always comes through," joked Reass, 64. Reass said the letters actually were

> Until two weeks ago, the couple did not know the letters were missing.

> Reass said that since he wrote his wife nearly every day during the war, he never checked on whether each of his letters had been received.

Government nixes **Eastern-Texas Air I**merger proposal

overnment on Tuesday grounded he proposed \$676 million purchase of Eastern Airlines by Texas Air Corp., but said it would consider a www.merger plan that resolves com-contributive problems in the lucrative The merger of Northeast air-shuttle market. Texas Air, which a

A spokesman for Texas Air Corp. aid the company remains, comnitted to the merger and is "absolu-ely confident" it will still get prompt overnment approval. Eastern offi-ials also said they are optimistic the overnment's objections can be re-

Industry and government sources, who spoke on the condition they not be identified, said the two ompanies are likely to rework their nerger plans as quickly as possible nd resubmit them to the Transporation Department.

One solution, one of the sources Vorld Airways obtain needed airort access - especially at New fork's LaGuardia Airport — so it ton shuttle corridor. an better compete with Eastern Airnes in providing air shuttle service

surances that a final deal would reserve competition in service beeen the three cities.

Eastern Airlines and New York in October.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air, already owned by Texas Air Corp., now compete head-on with hourly flights linking Washington, New York and Boston, making it the most heavily traveled commercial air

> The merger of Eastern with Texas Air, which also owns Continental Airlines, would create the country's largest airline holding company, slightly larger than United Airlines.

> The department said Tuesday it had no problems with the merger except for the impact on competition in the Northeast and that a new proposal aimed at solving those problems would be reviewed expeditiously, "with the focus on the proposed competitive remedy issue.'

But the department said the merger before the government would bring both Eastern and New aid, would be to help Pan American York Air under common control and eliminate effective competition in the Washington-New York-Bos-

Texas Air thought it had resolved etween Washington, New York and the Northeast competition question with a deal last May with Pan Am in The Transportation Department ave tentative approval to the Texas ir-Eastern merger on July 9, but at the time conditioned the decision on \$65 million.

> Pan Am plans to begin shuttle service in competition with Eastern

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