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THE BATTALION NEWS

Tuesday • August 5, 1997

UPS

Continued from Page 1

"We have local vendors that we can get supplies from, and a lot of those vendors have made alternative plans for how they're going to be shipping, too," she said. "It may [have an impact] if it lasts for some time."

Postal Plus owner Richard Baur said the strike could be detrimental to his business. His company is an authorized shipping outlet for UPS, providing customers with UPS services, in addition to Federal Express shipments.

"When [the strike] was first advertised, people were very concerned, and the number of packages dropped off dramatically," he said. "People are continuing to ship packages, just using an alternative method."

A few UPS trucks are still delivering high-priority packages to businesses, Baur said.

"UPS has used management people to maintain a level of service," he said. "They have made a concerted effort to deliver materials to businesses."

Although he is not worried about the immediate effects of the strike, Baur said he is concerned about the future of his business.

"This could force us into a situation where people decide not to use our services," he said. "We would be forced to lay off some part-time employees, as opposed to full-time employees. It could force the realignment of schedules if it continues over a long term."

Since most time-sensitive packages are directed to Federal Express, Baur said, the service is scrambling to meet increased demand.

"FedEx is running an hour behind because their system is geared to a certain number of

packages, and their move-rate has increased significantly, putting stress on the infrastructure," he said.

Although the U.S. Postal Service has imposed a four-package limit per customer, Baur said Postal Service customers should have no problem dealing with the strike.

"The general public's needs are being met very adequately right now by U.S. mail," he said. "People have adjusted to it, knowing that they have a reduced number of options."

Stanislaw said the sudden dependence on the UPS could create an influx of packages handled by the University Mail Service.

"If people sending packages no longer have the UPS option, we should see more activity," he said. "If the strike lasts more than one week, we do expect our little mail service to see more mail volume than previously."

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CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

Similarly, FedEx, which normally ships 2.8 million packages a day, saw its volume approach last Christmas' record of 4 million and had to push back dropoff times, close offices early and suspend money-back guarantees.

When Phyllis LeBlanc and her employees from LeBlanc's Harbor Sweets carted 60 boxes of perishable chocolates to a FedEx office in Salem, Mass., they were told they would be allowed to ship just one box.

"If this were December 15, we'd be screaming," said LeBlanc, whose company sells about \$2.5 million in chocolates annually, nearly all via UPS.

Lobster dealers held back on their perishable shipments, fearing other carriers would be unable to deliver on time.

United Parcel Service strike

UPS employees

Working International	36,000
On strike Teamsters	185,000
U.S. employees	302,000
Non-striking	115,000
Pilots	2,000

Major union demands

- Redefine "part-time" employees that work more than 40 hours as "full-time"
- Earn a lower hourly wage than "full-time" workers
- Receive smaller benefit packages than "full-time" workers
- Work double and triple shifts that often add up to more than a 40-hour week
- Limits on subcontracting jobs
- UPS must remain in the Teamsters' multi-employer pension and health funds.

who also was interviewed on NewsHour. "... We believe the Teamsters should let ... (the workers) decide if it's a good proposal or not."

The Teamsters represent nearly two-thirds of UPS' 302,000 employees in the United States.

The walkout is the first nationwide strike in UPS' 90-year history. There had been scattered walk-

outs before, including a daylong action in 1994 that the company estimated cost it \$50 million.

Clinton said that while UPS is very important to the country, he won't get involved. "I hope they'll go back to the table," the president said, "but at this time I don't think any further action by me is appropriate."

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