

Carter talks on gas, taxes—supports Lance

For those readers who missed it, here are some highlights from President Jimmy Carter's press conference Tuesday at the White House, compiled by the Associated Press.

Gasoline

The president announced the signing of an executive order giving the nation's governors authority to regulate gasoline sales in their states. The authority permits governors to decide which gasoline stations remain open on weekends, establish minimum purchase requirements and set up odd-even sales systems.

N.C. Gov. James Hunt was empowered by the state legislature in 1977 to regulate N.C. gas sales in emergencies.

Oil Decontrol

Carter appealed for support of his plan to lift controls on domestic oil prices beginning June 1 and to levy a windfall profits tax on oil companies, saying, "I'm convinced that the government control of oil prices has not worked."

Mideast

The United States will not put forward any proposals in the Mideast peace talks until after Israel and Egypt have begun negotiations, the president said. "For us to pre-empt the negotiations by putting forward a proposal to begin with would only be counterproductive."

Lance

The president declared that "Bert Lance is still my friend," but declined to comment on Lance's indictment on criminal charges because "I don't see any benefit to be derived from my commenting on the legal actions."

Tax Cut

Carter said he does not foresee a tax cut in 1980 because it would conflict with the need to balance the budget and fight inflation.

Wage Guidelines

The president said labor contracts negotiated since he established voluntary wage guidelines have met the guidelines 85 percent of the time, despite highly visible exceptions such as the just-negotiated United Airlines machinist union pact.

Inflation

Carter said a deliberate recession is unacceptable as an anti-inflation tool. The president said his anti-inflation program "is going to take some time to be effective. But I intend to stick with it."

Panama Canal

Carter believes Congress ultimately will be responsible and pass implementing legislation to accompany the Panama Canal treaties. He said if Congress doesn't pass such legislation, "we have no effective means to adequately defend the canal."

Rhodesia

Carter said he will decide within two weeks after the new bi-racial government takes office in Rhodesia whether the United States will lift its trade embargo against that country.



Jimmy Carter

Soviet Dissidents

"There have been some delays" in the release of the families of Soviet prisoners recently set free by that country, Carter said, but he believes the families will be reunited.

Democrats

Carter said he is not surprised he does not have unanimous support among congressional Democrats, but if he were to modify his positions to gain support, "then I don't deserve to be president."

Fishing

The president said his weekend fishing trips are "not only good for me but for the country. I wish I could do it more."

DC-10 travelers routed to other flights

(AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration's grounding of all DC-10 wide-bodied jets for inspections of their engine assemblies robbed the airlines of 40,000 seats, but most travelers got rides on other airplanes Wednesday.

The FAA said some of the big jets were back in the air Wednesday and all the inspections were due to be completed Wednesday night.

Sir Freddie Laker's Skytrain was back on the track following inspection of the six DC-10s it uses for cheap flights between England and the United States. Evelyn Hayward, a spokesman for Laker, said inspection had been completed on all the jets which were at Gatwick Airport near London.

The grounding of the jets was ordered during an investigation of last Friday's crash of an American Airlines DC-10 in Chicago which killed at least 273 persons, the nation's worst air disaster.

Thousands of passengers scrambled for new flights or cooled their heels in airport lounges and hotels Tuesday when the government handed down the order.

But airline spokesman at several airports this morning reported only minor disruptions of service.

Walt Robshaw, a spokesman for National Airlines in Miami, which has 16 DC-10s, said the inspections were expected to be completed by noon Wednesday but few of the big jets were in the air that morning.

Many passengers were still grumbling. "I understand how they feel about safety, but they could at least notify the people," said Carmela Soffrea of Fair Lawn, N.J., as she waited at Miami International Airport for a National Flight home.

"You try to get to the counter and all they say is, 'Step away.'" Kirk Kirkpatrick, supervisor of reservations for Western Airlines in Los Angeles, said some flights were delayed today and one was canceled, stranding about 170 passengers.

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