



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western Intercom



FAAer Fired For Tampering

Cover Story

The Reno Flight Service Station provided 213,965 flight services to the flying public last year. Fourteen specialists provide 24-hour a day, seven days a week services to pilots in the northern Nevada area. The FSS receives flight plans and provides pilot briefings. It is a Level II facility.

The FSS is located in the General Aviation Operations Building at Cannon International Airport in Reno. Chief of the facility is Fred Kelly. Team Supervisors are Ralph Guerriero and Jack Woods. FSS specialists include: Robert Andrews, Bernard Bronow, James Gruhn, Carl Johnson, Benjamin Mansfield, Donald Meredith, James Riseden, Jr., Stephen Rodgers, Robert Stanco, Bernard Weber and Alfred West.

The new Reno FSS boasts a complete team supervisor position which has the processor for the rapid weather retrieval system known as Lease Service A, which replaces the obsolete weather teletype system. They also have two in-flight positions, one flight data position, and a soundproof room for making the transcribed weather broadcasts. Facility equipment is maintained by personnel from the Reno Airway Facilities Sector at their co-located offices. Chief Fred Kelly comments, "To the best of my knowledge we have the latest equipment available to flight service at this time with the exclusion of closed circuit TV for weather charts for each position." All of the equipment has been changed from tube-type to solid state which calls for less preventative maintenance and gives better reliability of both air/ground frequency, VORTAC monitoring, etc. This also means that the specialist has a less difficult time

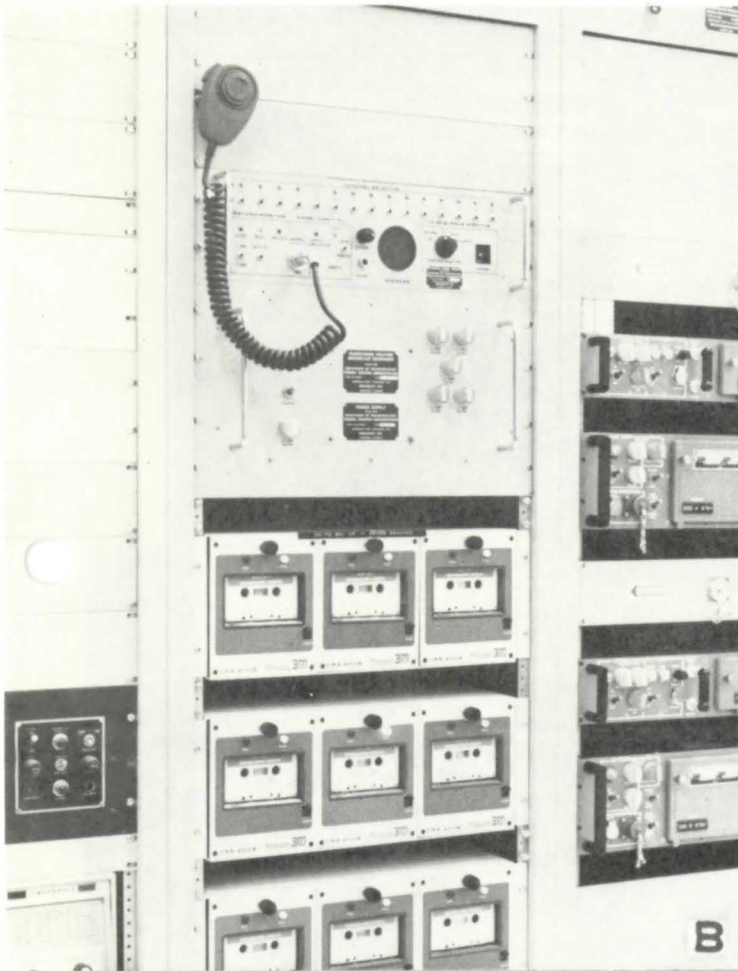
The Denver field office of the Merit Systems Protection Board has upheld the agency's decision to remove an employee who deliberately tampered with air traffic control equipment in a tower. According to the report, the employee tried to discredit ARTS II equipment, then began to tamper with it. For evidence in this case, the Merit Systems Protection Board relied upon an investigation conducted by the FBI and the agency's own internal investigation.

of monitoring the equipment. The transcribed weather equipment (the old 5204) has been replaced by the Sonycraft, which is all transistorized. It has a very tiny memory capacity and works on a cassette tape recorder recording principle. The transcribed weather broadcast is available to pilots over the Reno and Hazelton's VORTAC's and also the sparks non-directional beacon, the broadcast beacon and via a local telephone number. Search and rescue is always a problem, particularly in towns where people fly for recreation, such as Reno. Some pilots are overly anxious to get on with their personal activities and forget to close their flight plans--especially during the summer. The personnel at Reno FSS are a diversified group who engage in a number of hobbies such as: golf, target shooting, skiing, sail-boating, hiking and antiques. Many of the specialists also hold pilot ratings ranging from private pilot to instrument ratings. Featured on the cover are: Team Supervisor Ralph Guerriero (seated), FSS Specialist Jay Riseden, Jr., (standing) and Chief Fred Kelly (right). Cover photo by Barbara Abels.

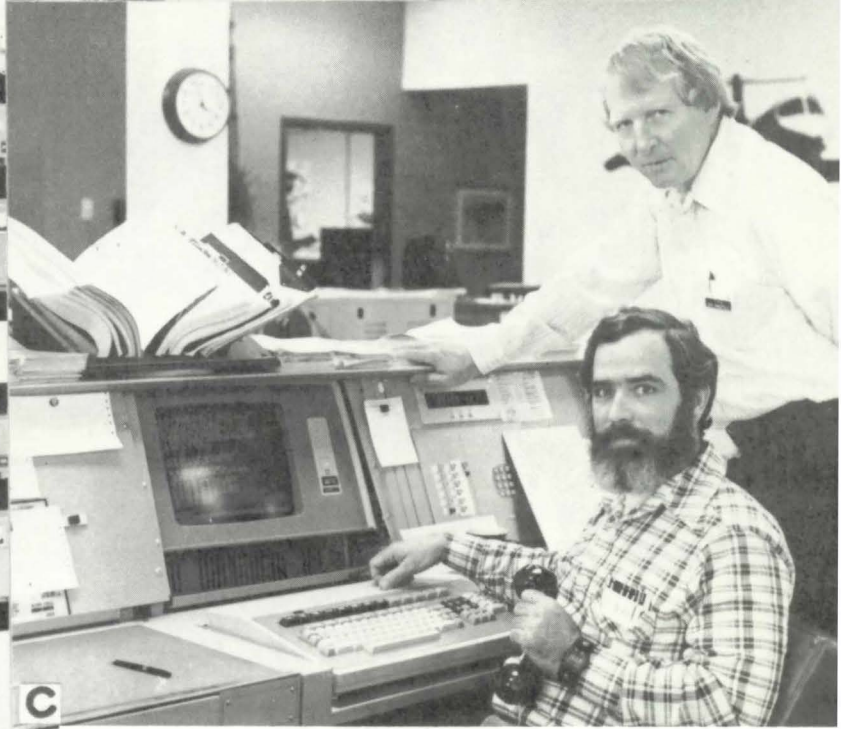
Reno
Flight
Service
Station



A



B



C



D

A--Fred Kelly, Chief, at entrance to the new Flight Service Station at Cannon International Airport.

B--The FSS electronic equipment racks which are maintained by Reno Airway Facilities personnel.

C--FSS Specialists Bob Andrews (seated) and Ben Mansfield working a preflight position.

D--FSS Specialist Steve Rodgers working an inflight position.

Photos by Barbara Abels.

More
Reno
FSS



A--FSS Specialist Bernie Bronow at the teletype at the "old" FSS.
B--FSS Specialist Carl Johnson working the inflight position at the "old" facility.
C--The FSS Operations Room one month before the move-in date.
D--Moving day finally arrives. In the background (left) is Hidieo Tanaka, Reno Airway Facilities Sector Technician.
E--The new, modern Reno Flight Service Station at Cannon International Airport
Photos by Fred Kelly.

New Prices For Civilair Business Cards

Personal business cards bearing the seal of the FAA are available to all personnel through Civilair. Prices are \$8 for 250 cards without the map; \$12 for 250 with the map. Send check or money order to: Civilair Rep., Western Region P.O. Box 92007, World Way Postal Center, Los Angeles, CA 90009.

Long Beach Airway Facilities Sector Grapevine

During a recent Sector meeting, Robert Huntling, Electronics Technician, System Performance Specialist, at El Toro Sector Field Office, was presented with a Quality Within-Grade award. Robert Barrows, Electronics Technician, San Pedro Field Office, received a career service emblem on completing 40 years of service. Congratulations to Diana Mahood and Betsy Titherington, our Developmental Electronics Technicians, on their recent promotions. Letters of Appreciation went to Lee Wangerin, Environmental Support Unit, from Chief, Long Beach Tower, for his job excellence in tower maintenance activities; and to Ken Champagne, Nav/Com Technician-in-Depth, and Mack Humphery, Electronics Technician, from Chief, Fullerton Tower, for their outstanding support given in initiating and maintaining the temporary control tower at the Anaheim Convention Center during the recent Helicopter Association national convention. We bid farewell and best wishes to Virginia Freeland, our clerk-typist, who is leaving FAA for the Post Office.

Phocus On Phoenix AF Sector

Congratulations to the following who recently received promotions: O. C. Baugh to General Supply Specialist, GS-8; Ronald Owens to GS-11 Electronics Technician; and Bob Benge, Environmental Support Technician, to WG-10. Service award letters and pins were awarded to Sector Manager Kermit Clark for 30 years, and to Assistant Sector Manager W. Riley Porter for 25 years. Presentation was made by Bob Frehse, Chief, Airway Facilities Division. Barbara Schwitters, Administrative Services Clerk, was pleasantly surprised by the receipt of a Special Achievement Award, presented by Billie Chrestman, Administrative Officer. We are looking forward to having Nick Xidis, Chief, Sector Field Office, back with us after a 90-day detail at Washington Headquarters. Welcome to Lyle Adams, formerly of the Regional Office, our newly selected chief of the Phoenix Long Range Radar. Also, we welcome back Phil Crea to our Flagstaff Sector Field Office after a year with the Findlay, Ohio Field Office. We had to say goodbye to Burdette Williams, Environmental Support Technician, who is transferring to the Army Corps of Engineers and will be going to Saudi Arabia; and to James Western, Electronics Technician, who retired; and last but certainly not least, to George McAfee, who will also be going to Saudi Arabia but with private industry. Our two Electronic Technician trainees, Edith Hutchison and Judy Murphy, who have successfully completed Phase I of the ET Upward Mobility Program, will be attending the ET Quals Program at the FAA Academy from April to October. We all wish them good luck in the successful completion of the course and look forward to having them back with us in October.

Document and Record Properly And Reimbursement Is A Snap

There has been some confusion pertaining to the Order concerning "Reimbursable Work Performed for Other FAA Elements" (Order WE 2700.19A/RM 2700.18A/NW 2700.17A) regarding the information needed by the Accounting Division to bill other FAA Regions, Centers or Washington Headquarters. The services and related payments are made by the performing office or facility and charged to the "home" cost center of the individual providing the service. This will remain charged to that cost center until Accounting is furnished the name and title of the official of the other FAA element authorizing and approving the expenditure on their behalf. After the appropriate billing is made and paid by the benefitting office, the charges will then be backed out of the cost center originally charged. If questions arise, call Accounting Classification & Review Section, AWE-26B, 536/6148, FTS 966-6148.

Reno AFS News

Several awards have been presented to Reno Airway Facilities Sector employees recently. Congratulations to the following: Ted Gutierrez, Electronic Technician, Wells, received an Outstanding performance rating with a Quality Within-Grade Increase; and Robert Calleas, Maintenance Mechanic at Fallon, received a Special Achievement Award. Awards for adoption of suggestions went to Phillip Utter, Maintenance Mechanic, Reno, for a suggestion pertaining to mountain-top VORTACs, and to Robert Pearce, Electronic Technician (Radar), Battle Mountain, for a suggestion regarding alignment procedures for the Air Route Surveillance Radar (ARSR) receiver system. Several employees have reached the 30-year mark in their careers and were presented with career service emblems by Dean De Shazo, Manager. There were: Hideo Takenaka, Electronic Technician, Nav/Com Unit, Reno; William H. Gross, Electronic Technician (Radar), Fallon Field Office; and Robert E. Calleas, Maintenance Mechanic, Fallon.

Merced West Coast Antique Fly-In

Merced Airport will be filled with airplanes during the 24th running of this annual event, which will be held on June 5, 6 and 7 this year. This fly-in is scheduled to be a fun weekend for the intrepid owners and pilots of those priceless antique and classical flying machines who take the time to share a bit of nostalgia and fun each year and display and fly their beautiful old birds. The World's "Friendliest Fly-in" is expected to attract all sorts and shapes of aircraft, from the antiques, homebuilts, experimentals and warbirds to the foot-launched Ultralights. During this three-day

period, the Air Traffic Controllers at Merced Tower will have their hands full, directing some 4,000 operations. Last year's fly-in brought an estimated 1800 aircraft to Merced Airport. This Level 1 Control Tower, with a normal average of about 180 operations a day, will be called upon to handle many times that amount, with nearly 2,000 operations anticipated on Saturday alone. Last year's event, with airshows on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon, was handled by the Merced Tower control staff, bolstered by controllers from Bakersfield, Santa Monica, Palo Alto and Sacramento Exec Towers. This year should be no exception, and we are looking forward to a return of some of these experienced controllers.

Kemper

Honored

At

FEB

Awards

Ceremony



John Kemper (center), Chief, Airway Facilities Frequency Management and Leased Communications Staff, was recently recognized by the Los Angeles Federal Executive Board for his leadership in effecting better utilization of radio frequencies. Presentation was made by movie star Martha Rae (left) at a recent FEB Awards Ceremony. Bob Frehse (right), Chief, Airway Facilities Division, participated in the ceremonies.

Blackaller Receives Administrator's Award



Donald "Larry" Blackaller (right) receives the Administrator's Special Achievement Award from Regional Director John D. Mattson. Larry was one of 19 who received the award for his work in connection with the Light Transport Airplane Airworthiness Review Program (Part 24). Larry was chosen for the four-month assignment based upon his experience as a flight test engineer with the Aircraft Engineering Flight Test Branch. He presently is an engineering field specialist with the Flight Standards Aircraft Modification Section. Photo by Barbara Abels.



Western Intercom

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Articles and photographs should be received by the Editor, AWE-5, extension 6431, by 11 a.m., Thursday, for publication in the following week's issue.

FAA Taking Off With Computer-Based Instruction

The aviation industry, including FAA, has been a leader in using computer-based instruction (CBI), and the FAA is on the brink of expanding its CBI training programs. In a CBI course, students receive individualized training through workbooks, slides, videotapes, lab kits and computer-assisted lessons. Some employees have already taken CBI training at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center or at a flight inspection field office. FAA is now expanding computer-based instruction to improve the efficiency and quality of training in other areas. The agency will start with a limited number of courses at several airway facilities sectors and at the Aeronautical Center next fall. In subsequent INTERCOM articles, the Office of Personnel and Training will explain how this new system is designed to work and what the future system will be like.

The News In Brief

Things are really jumping at the Technical Center. Just as one giant building is finished, ground is broken for another. And then without so much as a deep breath, plans are being announced to improve and expand the airport. Work on resurfacing the main 10,000-foot runway is slated to start next month and continue through September. Plans also call for extending a 6,100-foot runway to 8,000 feet and building a new 8,000-foot runway parallel to the main runway. When this is done, the passenger terminal, which is operated by the city, may also be relocated. But no one should wait with bated breath. The improvements will be made over a 20-year period. ● The Department of Transportation has published "The Car Book" in an effort "to increase consumer aware-

ness of the safest and best-performing cars." The 68-page guide to car-buying compares both domestic and foreign imports on such factors as safety, fuel economy, maintenance and insurance. It also has a chapter on used cars. For a free copy, write: The Car Book, Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81009. ● A flight under the John O'Connell Memorial Bridge at Sitka, Alaska, recently cost a local pilot his license for 10 days. Although FAA imposed a suspension of 30 days, the penalty was reduced by a National Transportation Safety Board judge, who, however, upheld the suspension order. The pilot claimed he had taxied his float plane under the bridge, but the judge believed the account of an eyewitness who said the plane was definitely airborne when it passed under the bridge.

Student-Aid Goes To Washington

Bismark Leasau is a student aid at the San Francisco Air Carrier District Office. Because of donations to the Close-Up Foundation by local businesses and organizations, several Baden High School students were selected to participate in the Close-Up program. Bismark (right) is shown with his teacher and fellow students who were chosen to go to Washington, D.C., last month for a close-up experience of the Federal government in action. Photo by Dave Dornlas, San Bruno Herald.



N-27, a Boeing 727, touches down on a Will Rogers World Airport runway in Oklahoma City as it completes its 50,000th landing--a new record.

FAA Aircraft Makes Record Number of Landings

An FAA-owned Boeing 727 made its 50,000th landing at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City recently, setting a new record for this type of aircraft. At the controls during the record landing was FAA pilot instructor Norm Ellard who was demonstrating landing technique to two students at the time. Designated N-27, the three-engine jet was purchased new from Boeing in 1966. It's used for training airline operations inspectors and has carried an estimated 1,350 - 1,400 students on its flight deck. According to Boeing, the 50,000 landings record for 727s probably will stick for some time, since the next highest number is 43,000 by a Mexicana Airlines jet. Despite N-27's record number of landings, FAA has no intention of retiring the aircraft in the near future. However, it will get a new landing gear assembly this spring, presumably for many more happy landings.

ICAO Has Jobs

For those with a bit of wanderlust, the International Civil Aviation Organization has jobs open from Montreal to Lima, Peru. The Montreal two-year opening is for a Technical Officer (Accident Prevention). Salary is \$29,940 with a tax-free net of \$21,756 to \$20,209. In Lima, a Deputy Representative is sought for a two- to five-year stint. Salary for this high level job is \$38,190 with a tax-free net of \$26,299 to \$24,298. Applications are due in Washington Headquarters, API-19, by April 17 for both positions.

Chairs Being Modernized

Phase II of the stopgap Domore chair modernization program goes into gear this month with the delivery of modification kits to small towers and flight service stations. Domore chairs are the type used by controllers and flight service station specialists. Approximately 10,000 of them, purchased 10 to 12 years ago, now need to be modified to extend their life and eliminate the occasional structural problems. During Phase I of the program, completed last year, chairs at en route centers and large towers were modernized. The additional modification kits, now being delivered under Airway Facilities supervision, will be installed in small towers and flight service stations, before the end of this fiscal year. At today's prices, it would cost \$2 to \$3 million to replace these chairs, whereas the modification kits cost only \$148,000. Although new chairs will soon be ordered, the modifications are being completed for safety.

Designation of Beneficiary For Group Life Insurance

A Standard Form 54, Designation of Beneficiary for Federal Group Life Insurance, which you may have on file in your Personnel folder, is valid. You do not need to submit a new Designation of Beneficiary Form, SF-2833, unless you wish to change the beneficiary. Remember, however, that a Designation of Beneficiary is automatically cancelled when you transfer from one Federal agency to another, even though you have no break in service. All employees who are eligible for FEGLI are reminded that the new SF-2817, Life Insurance Election must be completed and received by Personnel Management, AWE-14E, no later than March 31, 1981.

Reno General Aviation District Office News

Reno General Aviation District Office said farewell to Warren Fields with an open house on February 20. Many of his old friends from FAA and the community were there to wish him a happy retirement. We also have some new faces on board. Frances Ward reported from Oakland and Tom Howell came from Fresno, and they are getting settled in. Welcome! Our Aviation Safety Assistant, Mildred Freeman, has just received an outstanding performance rating and a Special Achievement Award. Applauds to you, Mildred!

**American
Red Cross
Thanks
FAA
For
Outstanding
Bloodmobile**

Frank Cleary, Employee Services Officer, and Shirley Thompson, Airway Facilities Division, received special recognition from the American Red Cross for their efforts in the recent Blood Donor Campaign.



American Red Cross Blood Services
Los Angeles-Orange Counties Region
610 N. Eucalyptus Avenue
Inglewood, California 90302
(213) 674-3535

March 16, 1981

To The Employees of Federal Aviation Administration:

Congratulations to all of you there at the Federal Aviation Administration for an outstanding bloodmobile on March 12, 1981. On that day 142 people were processed, 13 deferred for various reasons and 129 pints of blood collected for use in local hospitals. To my knowledge this is the most productive mobile you have sponsored in a long time. We are grateful to each and every one of you for your fine support of Blood Services.

We wish to once again extend our special thanks to Frank Cleary for his continuing interest and support. He has long been a friend of Blood Services and lovely to work with. Shirley Thompson did an outstanding job of organizing, scheduling and recruiting for this mobile. She even worked with our volunteers and staff on the day of the mobile, and we are so very grateful to Shirley for her efforts on our behalf.

Our important work goes on thanks to you and your generosity to the people of your community. As a Field Representative it is a real pleasure to work with a group like yours where I can meet with an enthusiastic group of recruiters. It makes a difficult job much more rewarding as well as productive.

With all best wishes for all of you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Bickford
Ruth Bickford
Field Representative
Blood Services

**Las Vegas
Airway
Facilities
Sector News**

The Sector welcomed Sector Manager Jim Webb from the Riverside Airway Facilities Sector--their loss is our gain! Welcome aboard to Bud Roe, Navaid's Technician-in-Depth, from the Lancaster Sector. We're happy to have Bob Love back at our Tonopah Field Office from Red Bluff Sector. Congratulations to Wayne Whipple, Curt Ingle and Reuben Sanchez on their recent promotions; to Jim Gunn on his 25-year service emblem and to Ralph Hawley on receipt of a 15-year career service emblem. Glenn Haas, General

Supply Specialist, received a letter of appreciation from the Chief, Supply Management Branch, AAC-480, endorsed by George Spingler, Project Engineer, AWE-453.4, for his support in shipping ARSR-3 parts to Fossil, Oregon. Condolences go to Wayne Miller and to Calvin Gilliam on the loss of their fathers. Electronic Technicians Ernie Schmuck and Bill Levis were enroute to the Angel Peak Air Route Surveillance Radar facility when they came upon a serious automobile accident involving four seriously injured people. The vehicle had rolled over several times and was completely destroyed. Ernie and Bill were the first on the scene and, thanks to the Sector FM network, were able to call for help.

Tax Notes: Extension To File

Taxpayers who need more time to complete their federal income tax return may request an automatic two-month extension by filing Form 4868 with the Internal Revenue Service. This form, "Application for Automatic Extension to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return," should be filled out in duplicate. The original copy of the form must be sent to the IRS on or before April 15, 1981. The duplicate should be attached to the Form 1040 when it is actually filed. Those receiving an extension until June 15 must use Form 1040 and compute their own tax. The extension applies only to the time for filing the return and not to the payment of the tax. The taxpayer must compute the tax expected to be owed for 1980 and send that amount with the Form 4868 to avoid interest and late payment penalties. Remember to file requests for additional extensions early enough to be able to file the return on time if the request is rejected. For further information, call the IRS on their toll-free forms line 1-800-242-4585.

Postage Rates Increase

One million dollars is what the postage rate increase, which went into effect March 22, will cost FAA. Last year, the agency's postage cost was over \$6 million. This year, it will climb to at least \$7 million with the new postage hike. However, the Office of Management Systems points out that postage costs can be reduced considerably if offices do not send an excessive amount of copies to field facilities. Changing the frequency of scheduled publications also will reduce costs. For example, sending a publication every four months, instead of three, would reduce postage costs by 25 percent.

Operation Clean-Up To Be Held In 1982

Once every two years, during even-numbered years, the FAA participates with other government agencies in an operation clean-up walk-through inspection campaign. This campaign is designed to provide a positive and expeditious program for identifying idle and unrequired property and supplies and reassigning such property where it is most needed. This year, 1981, is an odd-numbered year; therefore, the next such campaign should be planned for February 1982. For further information, refer to Order 4800.2A, paragraph 23.

New DOT Team Forming

The arrival of the Reagan Administration in Washington has produced a number of top-level management changes at DOT. So far, three sub-cabinet posts have been filled in addition to the appointment of Darrell Trent as Deputy Secretary. Judith Conner is the new Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs. She held similar DOT rank in the Ford Administration and most recently was an officer of Pan American World Airways. Lee Verstandig has taken over as Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs after working on Capitol Hill as an administrative assistant to Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island. And John Fowler has moved from the position of vice president and chief financial officer of the Reading Company to become the DOT General Counsel.