

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

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PRESS RELEASE

US TRANSPORT CHIEFS TO TALK TO COMMUNITY EXPERTS

Luxembourg, October 8, 1958: Howard G. Freas, chairman of the United States Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and Anthony F. Arpaia, member and former chairman of the Commission, will address some 250 transport experts from the institutions of the European Communities, the Community's member governments and transport organizations of the six Community countries in Luxembourg next Friday. At a meeting organized by the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), Mr. Freas and Mr. Arpaia will discuss the experience of the United States in Federal coordination of transport.

They will deal with this subject particularly as regards the light it sheds on the problems so far encountered by the High Authority in its efforts to harmonize transport conditions for coal and steel.

The High Authority considered it would be useful to hear, from the Americans best qualified to deal with transport questions, of the United States' experience in dealing with problems which frequently have closely paralleled those of the ECSC. (The ICC fulfils in the United States a rôle akin to that of a federal Transport Ministry.)

In the U.S. system, rate-fixing is primarily the responsibility of the private carrier under the supervision not of the state governments but of a federal agency, the ICC, and great importance is attached to publicity of these carrier rates as a means of detecting discrimination. This, together with the ICC's power to obtain full information from carriers, will be one of the many subjects to be discussed.

The European Economic Commission, executive body of the Common Market, will also be represented at the meeting, as the talks are likely to touch on problems which will arise in the application of the European Economic Community Treaty. The latter envisages formulation of a common transport policy for the Community by the end of the transition period.

The two Commissioners will arrive in Luxembourg on October 8 and leave for Germany, where they will be the guests of the Federal German Government, on October 12.

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