

POSTAL NEWS

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Tuesday December 02, 2008

1. Occupation leaves mail stranded

KOMSAN TORTERMVASANA

The seizure of Bangkok's two airports has stranded more than 100,000 pieces of inbound and outbound mail and parcels, according to Anusara Jitmitraparp, senior executive vice-president of Thailand Post.

Normally the state postal service handled 30,000 to 50,000 pieces daily, including 4,000 EMS parcels but the airport closure has disrupted its work. After shifting air transport service to U-tapao, Thailand Post was able to clear almost half of the stranded items over the past two days, particularly parcels containing perishable goods, said Mr Anusara.

The occupation of the airports by protesters has also raised operating costs because Thailand Post now uses land transport for stranded mail, notably domestic EMS packages.

Thailand Post last week put off the Nov 28 launch of its "EMS World" campaign, which was intended to inform individual and corporate customers about its ability to expedite mail domestically and internationally through connections with global postal services.

Thailand Post has 1,200 delivery locations nationwide and a call centre at 1545. It is allied with DHL and UPS.

During the past 10 months, it earned 12 billion baht in revenues, 20% growth from the same period last year. The company does not expect to meet its sales target of 16 billion baht because of the airport closures and the global recession.

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2. Postal Pointers

Dec 11, 2008.

by Mitch Ureene
Palouse Postmaster

Looking for an easy way to send a package? Now all you have to do is "Click-n-Ship."

With Click-n-Ship from the US Postal Service, you can ship things without leaving your home or office. All you need is a computer, a printer and an internet connection, and you can print labels with or without postage. Click-n-Ship calculates rates, finds a zip code, standardizes and saves addresses, keeps a history of your online shipping and accepts major credit cards - all at one convenient web site location.

What's more, with online insurance, you can buy coverage of up to \$500 for your packages at the same time you prepare your mailing labels. No extra transactions are required, and no additional forms, labels or stickers are necessary. With just a few extra keystrokes, you get protection and peace of mind for your packages at the same low price you'd get by driving to the Post Office.

With Click-n-Ship, you can use flat-rate Priority Mail boxes - available in several convenient sizes at one consistent shipping rate. Or if you prefer, you can weigh, pay for, and ship your own Priority Mail or Express Mail packages right from your office or home. You even get delivery confirmation service at no extra charge when you arrange for shipment online and use Priority Mail. And if you need global service, Click-n-Ship can help you use Global Express Mail or Global Express Guaranteed.

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Posted on Wed, Dec. 10, 2008

3. Union: 'A lot' of late, lost mail found by inspectors

By KITTY CAPARELLA
Philadelphia Daily News

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Postal inspectors, who are investigating delayed and missing mail and allegedly phony daily mail counts, have discovered "a lot" of late, unprocessed mail at the Southwest Philly processing plant, a postal-union president said yesterday.

Gwen Ivey, president of American Postal Workers Union Local 89, said that "inspectors are all over the place," referring to the ongoing audit by the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Postal Service's facility on Lindbergh Boulevard near Island Avenue.

Separately, postal clerks are finding late first-class mail in waste bins and elsewhere, but it's unclear whether the inspectors have seen it, she said, adding that she advised clerks to "bring it to the attention of their supervisors."

If nothing is done, she said, "I'm instructing them to call the inspectors."

Some postal clerks are reluctant to touch the waste mail after a series of Daily News stories that described how first-class mail, business-reply envelopes and other unsorted mail have been found in waste bins before the mail was to be destroyed, according to Ivey.

Yesterday, postal supervisors were observed by employees dumping tubs of mail into waste bins, but a postal worker, who asked to remain anonymous, could not say whether the mail was verified as waste.

Inspectors began auditing the mail over the weekend in response to an Oct. 24 complaint filed by the APWU. The complaint alleged that senior managers allegedly directed clerks to undercount the daily mail volume by millions of pieces each week.

The complaint also described how unsorted mail in tractor-trailers was rerouted to other locations, so that the mail would not be included in the daily mail count.

Also, the color codes on mail bins were changed to make it appear as if the mail was not late, according to the complaint.

The alleged undercounting, a year-long ban on overtime and cutbacks in staff led to hundreds of bins of overflowing mail backing up at the plant prior to the inspectors' arrival, according to Ivey.

The complaint alleged that managers received bonuses that were "fraudulently obtained through a systematic falsification of government reports, diversion of mail and destruction of mail."

Earlier, USPS spokeswoman Cathy Yarosky advised employees to report violations of USPS rules by contacting the OIG hotline at 888-USPS-OIG.

A USPS spokeswoman did not return Daily News calls for comment on the OIG inspectors' findings late yesterday afternoon. *

4. Quebecor World Announces Investment in Leading Co-Mail Technology to Generate Greater Postal Savings for its Catalog and Magazine Customers

Last update: 10:34 a.m. EST Dec. 11, 2008

MONTREAL, CANADA, Dec 11, 2008 (MARKET WIRE via COMTEX) --

Quebecor World Inc. (CA:IQW: news, chart, profile) today announced it is deploying variable trim and unique hybrid co-mail technologies that will increase its extensive co-mail offering and generate greater postal savings for its Catalog and Periodical customers.

The installation of a Variable Trim Co-Mail solution will enable Quebecor World to deliver multiple trim formats inline, offering our customers more opportunities to participate in co-mail pools and reduce their mailing costs. The basis of this technology is a high-speed trimmer that is able to vary the trim size from book to book and is able to produce superior trim quality even with varying book thickness. Quebecor World's Hybrid Co-Mail solution will allow more magazine and catalog customers to benefit from postal savings because it combines two established technologies into one powerful package. Quebecor World will be able to merge fully selective and personalized books from a saddle stitcher or perfect binder with multiple, previously perfect bound or stitched books. Hybrid Co-Mail will eliminate the current constraints around size in both dimensions, bind type and mail class by building new co-mail pools. Our Hybrid Co-Mail system will change the way in which our customers look at co-mail and postal efficiencies.

"Once again Quebecor World is taking the lead in the deployment of innovative, new technology to provide our customers with a greater opportunity to maximize postal savings via the most sophisticated and comprehensive co-mailing solutions in the market," said Brian Freschi, President Quebecor World Marketing Solutions Group. These leading capabilities support our customers' needs for efficiency and flexibility and will further distinguish Quebecor World in the catalog market."

"These initiatives provide our customers with multiple trim sizes, multiple co-mail options and more opportunity for greater postal savings. These are solutions our periodical publishers are looking for as they turn to us for ways to improve their business by introducing new efficiencies and enabling them to create new formats for their advertisers and readers," said Kevin Clarke President Quebecor World Publishing Services."

Quebecor World Logistics is leading the industry in terms of speed to market, with a 2.5-day offline co-mail pool turnaround. This combined with the power and flexibility of our inline offering provides our customers with a distinctive option in the catalog and periodical markets.

Earlier this year, Quebecor World Logistics became the first in the industry to offer mixed class co-mail pools to publishers and catalogers, which has since tripled in volume. As a direct result, Quebecor World Logistics recently announced plans to open a new offline co-mail facility in New Jersey as a result of growing demand for mail optimization solutions.

The benefits of our logistics services include predictable postage savings, multiple trim size options, weekly co-mail events as well as flexible, opt-in participation and customized reporting. This combined with Quebecor World's offline co-mail, mail list,

postal affairs expertise and distribution services ensures that catalog and magazine customers have seamless access to a full suite of mailing solutions.

Forward looking statements

This press release may include "forward-looking statements" that involve risks and uncertainties. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this press release, including statements regarding the prospects of the industry and prospects, plans, financial position and business strategy of Quebecor World Inc. (the "Company"), may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and Canadian securities legislation and regulations. Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate," "plan," "foresee," "believe" or "continue" or the negatives of these terms or variations of them or similar terminology. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that these expectations will prove to have been correct. Forward-looking statements do not take into account the effect that transactions or non-recurring or other special items announced or occurring after the statements are made have on the Company's business. For example, they do not include the effect of dispositions, acquisitions, other business transactions, asset writedowns or other charges announced or occurring after forward-looking statements are made.

Investors and others are cautioned that undue reliance should not be placed on any forward-looking statements. For more information on the risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause the Company's actual results to differ from current expectations, please refer to the Company's public filings available at www.sedar.com, www.sec.gov and www.quebecorworld.com. In particular, further details and descriptions of these and other factors are disclosed in the "Risk Factors" section of the Company's Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2007 and the "Risk Factors" section of the Company's Annual Information Form for the year ended December 31, 2007.

The forward-looking statements in this press release reflect the Company's expectations as of December 11, 2008 and are subject to change after this date. The Company expressly disclaims any obligation or intention to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by the applicable securities laws.

The Company is currently subject to Court protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act in Canada ('CCAA'), and various U.S. subsidiaries have filed petitions under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code ('Chapter 11').

In light of the CCAA and Chapter 11 Proceedings, it is unlikely that the Company's existing Multiple Voting Shares, Redeemable First Preferred Shares and Subordinate Voting Shares will have any material value following the approval of a final plan of arrangement.

About Quebecor World

Quebecor World Inc. (CA:IQW: news, chart, profile) is a world leader in providing high-value, complete marketing and advertising solutions to leading retailers, catalogers, branded-goods companies and other businesses with marketing and advertising activities, as well as complete, full-service print solutions for publishers. The Company is a market leader in most of its major product categories, which include advertising inserts and circulars, catalogs, direct mail products, magazines, books, directories, digital premedia, logistics, mail list technologies and other value-

added services. Quebecor World has approximately 23,000 employees working in approximately 100 printing and related facilities in the United States, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.

Web address: www.quebecorworld.com

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5. Postal workers to open your letters

By SAMUEL SIRINGI Posted Thursday, December 11 2008 at 21:55

The new communications law gives postal staff powers to open your letters.

People whose letters would be considered offensive or to contain obscene pictures will be liable to a Sh100,000 fine and two years imprisonment or both.

People will also not be allowed to use words such as “letter box” anywhere in their private buildings as that would imply such places are legitimate post offices.

People who defy the section will be liable to a fine of up to Sh5,000.

According to the Bill, “any person who affixes any placard, advertisement, notice, document or in any way disfigures any post office will be liable to payment of Sh50,000 or one year imprisonment or both”.

The law will also restrict you from transmitting certain messages through your mobile phone and other electronic gadgets.

The source of the messages will always be traced to senders.

Such transfer of messages was what helped police to arrest individuals who were distributing hate material that was critical of then ODM presidential candidate Raila Odinga in the North Rift at the height of last year’s General Election campaigns.

Their text messages will, too, be easily traceable, whenever they are considered obscene or offensive. It means Government officials would now have the right to access contents of your mail.

According to the law, the 12 million-plus mobile phone users will also be barred from interfering with the programming or facial features of their phones.

These are some of the raft of measures targeting the public, which are likely to intensify criticism of the Kenya Communications (Amendment) Bill 2008. Already, it has received heavy opposition from the media industry, which argues the Bill would give the Government powers to raid media houses and disable broadcasting equipment.

It means customers would now not be able to change the faces of the phones or even install some fancy ring tones as has been the case before, if the Bill becomes law.

Doing so will be regarded an offence, which would attract fines of up to Sh300,000 and imprisonment of three years.

Proposed law

The Bill would deny the public the right to know what their leaders would be doing away from their offices since the proposed law states sternly that there be “respect to the privacy of individual”.

The vague description of “privacy” could easily be misused by Government to bar media from reporting on the stolen property hidden private residences of leaders.

In what looks like a move to deny the public controversial news or those critical to authority, the Bill states that efforts must be made to give alternative views, regardless of the importance of the stories.

It states that derogative remarks based on ethnicity, race, creed, colour and sex are not broadcast, meaning most newspaper readers, TV watchers and radio listeners will receive heavily censored content.

According to the Bill, one would face a fine of Sh200,000 or imprisonment for two years or both if they use a computer system to perform a function that is unauthorised.

The bill makes it an offence to share (computer) passwords, access code(s) or any other means of gaining access to any programme or data. Culprits will get Sh200,000 fine, two years in jail or both.

The law creates new offences with respect to electronic records and transactions including cyber crime, destruction of electronic records and reprogramming of mobile phones.

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