

Pool 8.16.69
**Canada Bars
Trainload of
Deadly Gas**

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Aug. 15 (UPI)—Canadian customs officials today refused to permit a trainload of deadly phosgene gas to move through Canada, forcing the train to take a hastily revised route across the Midwest.

A Baltimore and Ohio Railroad spokesman in Chicago said the Office of Defense Transportation ordered the route of the train changed after customs officials at Windsor, Ontario, said they would turn back the train if it attempted to enter Canada.

"Transit of such gas is prohibited under provisions of custom tariffs," said Hartley Purvis, district collector of Canadian customs at Windsor.

[In Washington, the Federal Railroad Administration, part of the Transportation Department, said it has issued special permits because the containers did not meet departmental safety standards.

[The key unmet regulation, the spokesman said, was the lack of gas-tight caps on the containers. Because of this, he said, two experts were required to accompany each shipment, to inspect them at each stop and be equipped to neutralize the gas if anything went wrong.

[The experts are riding in the caboose.

[The B&O railroad placed ten cars not carrying gas on each end of the shipment, the B&O spokesman said, to minimize the dangers of derailment or collision.]

-A B&O spokesman said the

train was headed for Willard, Ohio, "and we don't know what will be done with it from there."

The 14-flatcar shipment of World War I-type poisonous gas was being shipped from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal at Denver, Colo., to Lockport, N.Y., where one chemical company plans to use the gas to make dyes and another chemical firm was to receive the cylindrical containers.

Officials of the Erie & Lackawanna Railroad said original plans had called for the train to move from Indiana to the Detroit area and then "through Canada" to Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Another shipment of phosgene was en route from Denver to Geismar, La. The Illinois Central Railroad said it was accepting delivery of the nine-car shipment from the Rock Island Railroad at Memphis, Tenn., and was scheduled to deliver the gas in New Orleans about 5 p.m. Saturday.

Movement of the odorless, inert, nonflammable gas across the country brought demands for a White House investigation from Rep. Richard S. McCarthy (D-N.Y.), Rep. Sidney R. Yates (D-Ill.), and Gov. Robert D. Ray of Iowa.

McCarthy urged President Nixon to investigate the safety factors involved and criticized the Army for "washing its hands" of the shipment. Yates also charged the Army had "washed its hands" of responsibility for protecting the shipment. McCarthy said the Army and the federal government had placed "economics before safety" in allowing the gas shipments.

Ray told Mr. Nixon in a telegram that he was concerned because no one in state or municipal government had been informed of the train's movement.