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TUESDAY

'B.R. Man' in Cuba After Skyjacking

A National Airline spokesman said today Federal Bureau of Investigation agents are probing yesterday's hijacking of a New Orleans-to-Miami jetliner and there is no word yet as to the hijacker's identity.

The FBI declined to discuss the case, but the National spokesman said a passenger listed on the manifest as "Mr. H. Jackson" of Baton Rouge was not on the list of returning passengers.

FBI agents questioned the crew and passengers on their return to Miami from their brief unscheduled trip to Cuba.

EARLIER, NATIONAL SAID the New Orleans passengers would return here on a flight this morning, but none did. The airline spokesman said the passengers were given a choice of returning home or proceeding on to their original destinations.

"They are being treated simply as delayed passengers," the spokesman told the States-Item by phone from Miami.

The passengers spent the night in Miami after being returned there yesterday aboard a propeller-driven craft from Havana.

In Miami, the passengers told newsmen the man who hijacked their plane seized their money as "contraband of war." They got it back from Cuban officials when the plane landed at Jose Marti Airport outside Havana.

MORRIS BEDLIN, A MIAMI BEACH TAXI DRIVER, said the Negro hijacker announced, "You've got a new captain," when he took over the Boeing 727 jet with 57 other passengers and seven crew members aboard shortly after it left New Orleans International Airport.

Bedlin said the hijacker announced over the public address system the seizure was part of a black nationalist movement.

"He said, 'We're going to take over a new ship every day for 100 days,'" Bedlin told newsmen.

M. R. Garrison, a Vernon, Tex., oilman now living in Rome, said the hijacker said the black nationalists were taking the action for "a new Africa."

"HE SAID THEY WOULD TAKE ONE a day for 100 days and that this was the first one. He was a kook!" Garrison said.

Bedlin said the man asserted black nationalists intend to hijack commercial lines "to show the white people that we're keeping them (Negroes) down, or something like that."

Pilot Antone Hunter said the hijacker—waving a revolver with a six-inch barrel—ordered stewardess Sandy O'Brien to collect money from the passengers.

"He made her count the money on the floor," the captain said. It totaled \$405.

ROBERT SEELY OF DALLAS SAID, "He acted completely crazy. He said he was taking up the money as contraband of war."

Hunter said the hijacker held a gun to Miss O'Brien's head and forced her to unlock the cockpit door about 10 minutes out of New Orleans on National Flight 186 from Houston to Miami via New Orleans.

MISS O'BRIEN SAID THE HIJACKER boarded the plane wearing a blue blazer and "looked very nice." She said he changed in a restroom, however, to emerge wearing black slacks, black shoes, black shirt, black beret, black leather jacket and dark glasses.

Off the Cuban coast, Hunter said, two Cuban jet fighters flew alongside the airliner.

The hijacker was whisked away quickly after landing in Cuba. The airliner was released and the crew returned it to Miami last night.

Cuban officials, Hunter said, told him "safety and security" would not permit it to take off loaded. The passengers were bussed to Vera-dero, a two-hour ride away, and a four-engine propeller-driven plane chartered by the U.S. State Department flew there to pick them up.

National listed the following passengers as giving New Orleans as their home town or city of origin:

W. Webber.

T. E. Mendej.

N. Bedlin.

Dr. E. Rogge.

R. Roberts.

J. Spencer.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Fletcher.

Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Mc-Masters.

M. T. Ford.

Rev. D. Taylor.

Rev. R. Whitstone.

Mrs. P. Gantous and two daughters, K. and J. Gantous.

Boarding in New Orleans but giving other cities as home towns were the following passengers:

H. Jackson, Baton Rouge.

M. Miskowski, Pensacola, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Benjamin and Miss Corey Benjamin, Dallas, Tex.

B. Williams, San Francisco, Calif.

David Barron, San Francisco.

Mrs. G. Nelson, San Francisco.

G. Price, San Francisco.

J. Dwain, San Francisco.

M. Burke, San Francisco.