

Decision No. 22879

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY  
for an order authorizing discontinuance  
of service and rates for "Thank You"  
messages, in the State of California.

Application No. 22879

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this proceeding The Western Union Telegraph Company requests authority to discontinue furnishing "Thank You" telegraph message service and to withdraw rates therefor. Applicant operates a telegraph business in California and other states.

"Thank You" messages are intended to be expressions of gratitude concerning social matters and business favors. The present rates are filed as twenty-five (25) cents each for prescribed fixed text messages generally, twenty (20) cents for each prescribed fixed text message within local areas, and thirty-five (35) cents for each "Thank You" message of fifteen (15) words of the sender's own composition. It is asserted that the experimental offering of this special service at special rates is a failure, that the use of the service is of no significance and that it affords an opportunity to divert regular traffic to this lower rate service by the subterfuge of adding "Thank You" to ordinary messages.

The Commission has considered this application and is of the opinion that the request herein made should be granted and, furthermore, that this is a matter in which a formal hearing is not required, therefore

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that The Western Union Telegraph Company may discontinue its "Thank You" service and withdraw rates therefor on or before October 1, 1939, provided the necessary rate schedule modifications are filed with the Railroad Commission of the State of California not later than ten (10) days immediately preceding its effective date.

For all other purposes the effective date of this Order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9<sup>th</sup>  
day of August, 1939.

Robert W. Quinn  
Francis W. Quinn

H. B. Quinn  
Justus F. Quinn  
Commissioners