

Decision No. 23655

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 amendments
and additions to its rules applicable
to Press Services in the State of
California.

Application No. 23655

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

The Western Union Telegraph Company, operating a telegraph business in California, and elsewhere in the United States, herein requests authority to modify its tariffs applicable to Press Services in California to eliminate certain references to news reel concerns and to clarify the application of the rate schedules covering the services.

In general, Press Services rates apply to telegraph messages containing news for publication addressed to newspapers, press associations, or to broadcasting companies, and filed by their correspondents or other press concerns. Such rates are offered to assist in the dissemination of information of public interest and generally are lower than the rates for other classes of telegraph messages.

The applicant states that the Press Services rates were extended to news reel concerns on their insistence that as the production of pictures of news events was involved, they should be entitled to the same rates as those extended to newspapers and their correspondents. Applicant asserts in practice, however, it has developed that such messages were not confined

by the news reel concerns to the type of communication intended, but were applied to exchange of information between field representatives and employers.

The Commission has given consideration to this application and is of the opinion that the authority requested should be granted, and 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 modify its tariffs, as set forth in this application, on or before November 1, 1940, provided the necessary rate schedule revisions are filed with the Railroad Commission of the State of California not later than ten (10) days immediately preceding their 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 10th day of September, 1940.

Ray K. King
George B. Smith
Raymond A. King
H. B. Baker
Justus F. Caseman
Commissioners