

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 44867

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY,)
INCORPORATED for authorization to)
withdraw its Collection and De-) Application No. 31409
livery Service for the Handling)
of Express Matter at FOLSOM,)
CALIFORNIA.)

Appearances

F. C. Rockey, for applicant.

Ward Hall, for Transportation Department,
Public Utilities Commission.

O P I N I O N

Railway Express Agency, Incorporated, is engaged in the common carriage of property as an express corporation. It seeks authority to discontinue pickup and delivery service at Folsom. With the discontinuance of such service all express shipments originating at or destined to Folsom and points in the vicinity thereof would be received or delivered at the agency's Folsom office.

Public hearing of the matter was had before Examiner Abernathy at Sacramento on September 7, 1950.

An employee of applicant, who said that he is in charge of over 50 of the express company's offices in the Sacramento Valley area, testified that termination of pickup and delivery operations at Folsom is sought because of inability of applicant to continue to provide the service. He explained that the service is performed by the express company's agent who is also employed by the Southern Pacific Company and by Western Union in accordance with a joint arrangement with those companies; that because of increasing volume of business of the railroad the agent has asked to be relieved of his pickup and

delivery duties; and that officials of the railroad have informed applicant that it would have to employ someone other than the agent to perform the service in the future. The witness declared that he has made a determined effort to engage someone else but has been unsuccessful in his quest. He said there are no licensed draymen in Folsom and that others whom he approached were not interested in¹ handling the small amount of business involved.

The witness stated that he had discussed the proposed discontinuance of service with all of the principal shippers at Folsom and that he had received objections from only three. He said that these three are only infrequent receivers or shippers of express. Assertedly, discontinuance of pickup and delivery service would not impose hardship upon applicant's patrons. In addition to the fact that the number of shipments which are involved are few, applicant's office is centrally located so that its patrons do not have to go far to pick up or deliver shipments. The witness said that the farthestmost point in the pickup and delivery area is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the agency's office and that almost all of the business houses in Folsom are within 500 feet of the office.

The record shows that notices of hearing in this matter were posted in applicant's office in Folsom and were published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Folsom area. In addition notices were sent by the Commission's secretary to persons believed to be interested, including those who had registered objections with applicant concerning its proposal. No one appeared at the hearing to oppose granting of the application.

¹ According to an exhibit which the witness submitted, an average of about 3 shipments per day, or about a third of all of the shipments that move through the Folsom office are handled in pickup and delivery service. The greater number of the shipments originate at or are destined to points outside of the established pickup and delivery area.

The evidence is convincing that the discontinuance of pickup and delivery of express shipments will not substantially impair applicant's service to its patrons at Folsom. It appears that the service that applicant will continue to perform will be adequate. Upon careful consideration of all of the facts and circumstances of record the Commission is of the opinion and finds that applicant has justified its proposal. The application will be granted.

O R D E R

Public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding, the matter having been submitted, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Railway Express Agency, Incorporated, be and it is hereby authorized to discontinue service for the pickup and delivery of express shipments at Folsom and to cancel from its tariffs all references to said pickup and delivery service.

This order shall become effective twenty (20) days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 31st day of October, 1950.

R. Z. Zimmerman
Justus J. Calver
Robert J. Jewell
Harold P. Hule
Herbert P. Pottel
Commissioners