ORIGINAL

Decision No. <u>46555</u>

A. 32950 MMW

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of ASBURY RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM, a corporation, for an order pursuant to Section 52 of the Public Utilities Act authorizing applicant to execute a conditional sale contract for the sum of \$182,400.00, covering the purchase of 10 new Twin Coach buses.

Application No. 32950

<u>O P I N I O N</u>

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This is an application for an order of the Commission authorizing Asbury Rapid Transit System to execute a conditional sale contract providing for deferred payments of \$182,400 for the purchase of equipment.

Applicant is a California corporation engaged in the business of operating motor coaches for the transportation of passengers generally between Los Angeles and San Fernando, between Pasadena, Hollywood and Culver City, and between Los Angeles and Pasadena and various adjacent and intermediate points. In this application it reports that it is operating at a loss, after making provision for depreciation, and that in order to effect economies it proposes to purchase 10 new 52-passenger propane-powered buses and to retire 16 old buses of smaller seating capacity. It is of the opinion that by doing so it will realize substantial savings in fuel, tires, maintenance and drivers' wages and that it will not impair its service since, by reason of the larger scating capacity of the new buses, certain schedules can be eliminated.

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The application shows that the 10 new buses will be acquired from Twin Coach Company at a total price of \$204,825.30, of which \$22,425.30 will be paid in cash and \$182,400 will be payable pursuant to the terms of the proposed conditional sale contract in 48 monthly installments of \$3,800, with interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ % per annum. A copy of the proposed form of contract has been filed in this proceeding as Exhibit A.

Applicant's financial statements on file with the Commission show, in summary form, its revenues and expenses for the calendar years 1949 and 1950 and for the first nine months of 1951, as follows:

	1949	1950	(9 mos.)
Operating revenues Operating expenses, exclud- ing depreciation Net before depreciation Depreciation expense	\$1,321,652	\$1,231,806	\$927,542
	$\frac{1,242,037}{79,615}$	<u>1,148,589</u> 83,217 79,528	<u>892,386</u> 35,156 <u>61,395</u>
Operating income	\$ 7,017	\$ 3,689	\$(26,239)

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In Exhibit B filed in this proceeding applicant reports its net investment in tangible and intangible capital at \$525,785.67 and in current assets at \$67,735.38, a total of \$593,521.05, which it has paid or provided through the issue of long-term obligations of \$149,132.96 and current liabilities of \$171,520.35, and with common stock equity capital of \$272,867.74.

Upon the basis of the information contained in the verified application and upon a review of applicant's financial reports, it appears that benefit should accrue to applicant, and to its customers, through the acquisition of the new equipment and that the Commission, accordingly, is warranted in granting applicant's request.

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ORDER

The Commission having considered the above entitled matter, and being of the opinion that a public hearing thereon is not necessary; that the application should be granted, as herein provided; that the money, property or labor to be procured or paid for through the execution of the conditional sale contract herein authorized is reasonably required by applicant for the purpose specified herein; and that such purpose is not, in whole or in part, reasonably chargeable to operating expenses or to income; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Asbury Rapid Transit System, after the effective date hereof and on or before February 29, 1952, may execute a conditional sale contract in substantially the same form as that filed in this proceeding as Exhibit A, providing for deferred payments of \$182,400 with interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ % per annum, for the purpose of financing in part the cost of equipment to which reference is made in the preceding opinion.

2. Applicant shall file with the Commission monthly reports as required by General Order No. 24-A, which order, insofar as applicable, is made a part of this order.

3. The authority herein granted will become effective when applicant has paid the fee prescribed by Section 1904 of the Public Utilities Code, which fee is one hundred eighty-three (\$183.) dollars.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 18^{-1} day of December, 1951.

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