

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 49168

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 BRUCE W. ROBB to cease operation as)
 a passenger stage corporation in and)
 in the vicinity of Salinas, Califor-)
 nia, and for permission to sell and)
 dispose of all equipment heretofore)
 used in said operation.)

Application No. 34898

Paul M. Hamerly of Noland, Lawson & Hamerly,
 for applicant.

Russell Scott, City Attorney, for the City of
 Salinas, protestant.

Charles W. Overhouse, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

Applicant has been engaged in the business of carrying passengers as a passenger stage corporation within and in the immediate vicinity of Salinas, California, under authority of this Commission.^{1/} By the above-entitled application he seeks authority to discontinue service on December 31, 1953, and thereafter to dispose of all equipment and assets of said business.

A public hearing was held in Salinas on December 8, 1953, before Examiner W. E. Cline, at which time evidence was adduced and the matter was submitted for decision.

Notice of the hearing was posted in a prominent place on each of the buses of applicant and at the City Hall and was published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area on December 1, 1953.

^{1/} Decision No. 41288, dated March 9, 1948, in Application No. 28410 and Case No. 4913.

The City of Salinas appeared as a protestant through its city attorney. Three witnesses who are patrons of applicant testified as to the need for the continuance of the service.

The annual reports of applicant for the years 1948 through 1952 on file with the Commission show operating results as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Net Loss</u>	<u>Net Income</u>
1948	\$ -	\$ 1,380.85
1949	-	183.48
1950	5,331.35	-
1951	18,927.99	-
1952	8,846.13	-

Exhibit No. 1 prepared from the books of applicant by his accountant shows a net loss of \$11,594.68 for the first 10 months of 1953. The Commission staff engineer adjusted the book figures to show a net operating loss of \$11,360.22 for the first 10 months of 1953. He estimated that the loss under present fares and schedules for the calendar year 1954 would be \$9,818.

The Commission staff engineer offered several suggestions which would result in a more economical operation, such as a reduction in the number of buses and a rescheduling of service in the Alisal area, but concluded that even though all the suggestions were adopted by applicant he still would not be able to operate the system at a profit. Applicant testified that in his opinion any increase in fares would be offset by a reduction in traffic. He stated that he knows of no way to make the operation profitable. He is unwilling to adopt the suggestions of the Commission staff engineer for a trial period of 90 days as he believes the continued operation of the bus system will only result in further losses to himself.

Upon careful consideration of the evidence now before the Commission, the conclusion is inescapable that the patronage does not warrant the continuance of the service, and that applicant's request

for authority to discontinue service and to dispose of his properties should be granted.

O R D E R

The above-entitled application having been considered, a public hearing having been held, the matter having been submitted and now being ready for decision,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Bruce W. Robb be and he is hereby authorized to discontinue his passenger stage service in and in the vicinity of Salinas, California, and to sell or otherwise dispose of all equipment and assets of his passenger stage business.
2. That all effective tariffs and timetables on file in the name of Bruce W. Robb be and they are hereby canceled.
3. That the passenger stage operating rights conferred under authority of Decision No. 41288, dated March 9, 1948, in Application No. 28410 and Case No. 4913, be and they are hereby revoked and rescinded.

The effective date of this order shall be December 31, 1953.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 21st

day of December, 1953.

[Signature]
President

Justus J. Caswell

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
Commissioners