ORIGINAL

Decision No. <u>49488</u>

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of EARL C. COOK and EVA M. COOK, doing business as Cook's Stages, for authority to increase Express Rates under the provisions of Section 454 of the Public Utilities Code.

In the Matter of the Application of) EARL C. COOK and EVA M. COOK, doing) business as Cook's Stages, for) authority to increase auto stage) passenger fares under the provisions) of Section 454 of the Public Utilities) Code. Application No. 34770

Application No. 34771 (As Amended)

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

Applicants operate as a passenger stage corporation for the transportation of passengers between Bakersfield and Arvin and intermediate points and between Bakersfield and Taft and intermediate points.¹ Incidental to these operations, they transport shipments of express weighing not more than 100 pounds on the regular passenger schedules. In these proceedings, applicants propose to revise their rate structures so as to develop additional revenues.

Under the proposals, most of the present passenger fares, which range from 15 cents to \$1.00 per one-way ride and from 30 cents to \$1.60 for round trips, would be increased by amounts ranging from 5 cents to 15 cents.² Existing commutation fares good for ten rides

l Via the routes operated, the one-way distances between Bakersfield and Arvin and between Bakersfield and Taft are 22 miles and 40 miles, respectively.

A few fares would not be changed and slight reductions would be made in a small number of others.

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ranging from \$3.00 to \$4.75 would be replaced by higher fares ranging from \$3.25 to \$5.25. In addition, the present tariff rules would be revised by clarifying the application of children's fares and by establishing a rule for computing fares for points served that are not specifically named in the tariff. The proposed passenger fares and tariff rules are set forth in Appendices A, B, C and D attached to this decision.

The express rates are named in cents per shipment and vary with the weight and distance involved. For merchandise not otherwise specified, the sought increases range from 25 cents to 35 cents per shipment. For movements of bread, bakery products and fresh and smoked meats, the present rates would be raised by one-quarter cent per pound. Related increases would be made in the charges for handling "collect on delivery" shipments and in those for the storage of undelivered shipments.

Applicants allege that the present rate structure has not been adjusted since the early part of 1940 and that the revenues now produced thereby are inadequate to meet the cost of the services as a result of steady advances in the operating expenses. It is pointed out that the rates were established by a predecessor company and that there is no uniformity in the bases for the rates and but little relationship between charges for like services under comparable conditions on the routes operated. The applications show that the proposed passenger fares on all of the routes are based upon a basic rate of 2.5 cents per mile, the lowest rate which would provide additional revenue needed to maintain the services and eliminate maladjustments in the present rate structure. The higher express rates proposed are similar to those maintained by other bus companies operating in the area. Assertedly, all operating economies possible have been made.

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According to an exhibit attached to the applications, applicants' books show that the gross revenues amounted to \$28,676 and the operating expenses were \$22,484 for the months February through June, 1953. These figures, however, include revenues and expenses for contract services separately performed with equipment different from that used in the common carrier services. In addition, no provision was made in the expenses for salaries for management and supervision.

The following analyses of the common carrier operations made by the Commission's staff show the estimated annual results of operations under the present and proposed rate structures:

Estimated Results of Common Carrier Operation For Year Ending November 30, 1954, by PUC Engineering Staff

	Under Present Charges	Under Proposed Charges
Revenue		
Passenger Express	\$34,080 <u>8,760</u> 42,840	\$35,620 10,790 46,410
Operating Expenses Net Before Income Taxes Income Taxes Net Income Operating Ratio	$\begin{array}{c} 43,770\\(\underline{930})\\(\underline{930})\\102.2\%\end{array}$	44,020 2,390 560 1,830 96.1%*

(____) Indicates red figures.

* After Income Taxes.

Applicants have presented a letter from the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Kern County who states that the board raises no objection to the granting of the proposed increases by this Commission. A letter was also submitted from the City Clerk of the City of Bakersfield stating that the City Council in regular session had instructed him to advise the Commission that the city would not oppose the requested increases. A certified copy of excerpts from a

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resolution of the City Council of the City of Taft indicating no opposition to the increase was also transmitted to the Commission.

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Estimated results of operations of the common carrier portion of applicants' business indicate an operating deficit under present fares. Under proposed fares the Commission adopts the staff's estimated net earnings of \$1,830 after income taxes and a corresponding operating ratio estimated as 96.1 per cent. From the foregoing it is apparent that the requested increases in passenger fares and express rates are justified and the Commission so finds. A public hearing is not necessary.

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Applications having been made, the Commission being fully advised in the premises, and having found the proposed fare and rate changes to be justified and reasonable,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Earl C. Cook and Eva M. Cook, doing business as Cook's Stages, be and they hereby are, authorized to establish, on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public, the increased passenger fares and express rates and changes in tariff rules as applied for in Applications Nos. 34770 and 34771, as amended, filed in these proceedings.

2. That applicants shall post in their buses and terminals a notice describing the rate and fare increases, continuously for at least ten days before such rate and fare increases become effective, and for twenty days thereafter.

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BAKERSFIELD - ARVIN LINE

PROFOSED TARIFF

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;	·	:(0.0)	:(2.8)	: (5.0)		: (10.9)	1 (10.9)	: (11.8)	: (13.9	: (15.1)	: (16.2		
:	: , 📃 Between	-> i	\$: Magunden		t	t	:	:	Heedpate	hi 👘	Edson a	k :
t	•	t		:(Fairfax		:	Ht.View	1	1	:(Heedrato	h:	DiGior	giot
t .	And	Bakers	-:Vernor	ht& Edison	Fairfax	iKernita	. : (4	:Nt. View	12	tand Buen	at	t Roads	s iDiGiorgio
Hiles	t Aiki	<u>i field</u>	: Ave.	:Highway)	: School	t Park	:Corners	1 School	: Lacont	: Vista)	:Vinela	nd: (Nebi	er): Farms
5.0	Kagunden	15/30											
	Fairfax School	20/35											
10.0	Kernita Park	25/40	15/30	`									
10.9	Mt Lew (4 Corners)	30/50	20/35										
11.8	mt. View School	35/55	25/40		15/30								
-	Lamont (Depot)	40/65	30/50		20/35	15/30							
	Weedpatch (Buena	44-7			~~////	-1170					-		
	Vista)	45/70	35/55	5 30/50	25/40	20/35	15/30						
16.2	Vineland	50/80	40/65	5 35/55	30/50	25/40	20/35	15/30	15/30				
18.2	Edison & DiGiorgi	0					~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	-7124	-7750				
	Rd. (Rebier)	50/80	45/70) 40/65	35/55	30/50	25/40	20/35	20/35	15/30			-
		55/90	50/80		40/65	35/55	30/50	25/40	20/35	20/35	15/30		
21.6	Buena Vista &		•								-7750		
•	Comanche	60/95	55/90	50/80	45/70	40/65	35/55	30/50	25/40	20/35	20/35	15/30	•
24.2	Arvin	65/105	60/95		50/80	45/70	40/65	35/55	30/50	25/40	20/35	20/35	15/30

10-Ride Commute Tickets					
Where One-Way	10-Ride Commute				
Adult Fare is	Ticket will be				
\$.40	\$3,25				
.45	3.50				
.50	4,00				
.55	4,50				
.60	4.75				
,65	5,25				

Note: Fares are named in cents one-ways to the left of diagonal, and round-trips to the right thereof. A-34770, 34771 ET

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BAKERSFIELD - TAFT LINE

A - Botween Bakersfield and Foints Shown

:	Milcs	Between>	Bakersfield	
- <u> </u>	6.5	Fairview Road & Union	15/30	-'
	9.0	Groenfield Corners	20/35	
	11.0	Pumpkin Center	30/50	
	12.0	Panama	30/50	
	15.0	Old River Road	40/65	
	18.0	Canfield Ranch	45/70	
	26.0	Western Water Works (Tupman Rd.)	65/105	
	31.0	Moshers	80/130	
	34.0	Valley Acres (Valley West Road)	85/135	
	40.0	Taft	100/160	
			and the second	

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B - Between Taft and Points Shown

	Botween -	> Taft
Miles	And	
16.0	McKittrick	40/65
27.0	Buttonwillow	70/110
6.0	Valley Acres	15/30
9-0	Moshers	25/40
14.0	Western Water Works	35/55
22.0	Canfield Ranch	55/90 [.]
25.0	Old River Road	65/105
28.0	Panama	70/110
29.0	Pumpkin Center	75/120
31.0	Greenfield Corners	80/130
34-5	Fairview Road & Union	90/14
40.0	Bakersfield	100/160

Note: Fares are named in cents one-ways to the left of diagonal, and round-trips to the right thereof.

Proposed Adult Fares

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"C"

Table to	be used in
computing	Round-Trip
Adults Fares	between points
<u>not specifi</u>	cally named

Where one-way	Round- trip fare
is	will be
 \$.15 .20 .25 .30 .35 .40 .45 .50 .55 .60 .65 .70 .75 .80 .85 .90 .95 1.00 	\$.30 .35 .40 .50 .55 .65 .70 .80 .90 .95 1.05 1.10 1.20 1.30 1.35 1.45 1.50 1.60

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Table to be used in Computing One-Way Adult Fares between points not ______specifically named

<u>is</u>	
(in miles)	be .15 .20 .25 .30 .35 .40 .45 .50 .55 .60 .65 .70 .75 .80 .85 .90 .95 1.00

Restriction:

No passenger will be carried whose origin and destination are:

 Both between Taft and Fellows, inclusive; or
 Both between Bakersfield terminal and Brundage Lane, inclusive.



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PROPOSED RULE

Fares to, from or between directly intermediate points which this carrier is authorized to serve, and which are not named as fare points in this tariff will be computed on the basis of speedometer mileage as follows:

a. Fareswill be based on two and one-half cents $(2-1/2\phi)$ per mile between point of origin or destination and the nearest published fare point in the direction of travel plus the published fare to or from the nearest point named. In cases where there is no published fare point between the point of origin and point of destination, the fare will be computed on the basis of two and one-half cents $(2-1/2\phi)$ per mile from origin to destination.

b. Fares computed in accordance with this rule shall not exceed (1) the published fare to or from the next more distant point on the same route of travel or (2) when both point of origin and point of destination are located between the same named fare points, the fare shall not exceed the published fare applicable between said named points.

Fares computed in accordance with this rule are subject to a FIFTEEN-CENT (15¢) Fare Minimum.

CHILDREN'S FARES

Children under five (5) years of age, when accompanied by a passenger paying an adult fare and when not occupying a scat to the exclusion of other passengers, will be carried free. Children under five (5) years of age occupying seats to the exclusion of other passengers and childron five (5) years of age and older, but less than twelve (12) years of age, will be charged one-half (1/2) of adult fare, increased where necessary to make such fare end in 0 or 5.

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3. That the authority herein granted shall expire unless exercised within sixty days after the effective date hereof.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at Samit Malles pa, California, this 29th day of <u>Alreynlien</u>, 195<u>-</u>. esiden

Commissioners

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