

ORIGINALDecision No. 52376

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 TRANSCONTINENTAL BUS SYSTEM, INC.)
 for authority under the provisions of) Application No. 37556
 Section 454 of the Public Utilities)
 Code to increase fares.)

OPINION AND ORDER

Transcontinental Bus System, Inc., operates a passenger stage service between various points in the State of California. By this application it seeks authority under Section 454 of the Public Utilities Code to establish, in connection with certain of its operations between San Francisco, Oakland, Merced, Fresno, Bakersfield and Los Angeles, special service charges to be applicable on four designated schedules.¹ It also requests authority to establish the proposed charges on less than statutory notice.

The application shows that the four schedules to which the proposed service charges would apply will be operated with new specially-designed, luxury-type equipment; that express-type service will be provided, and that all seats will be reserved. It also shows that the following de luxe service and comfort features are to be provided on the buses in question:

- (a) Attending stewardesses,
- (b) Lavatory facilities on board the equipment,
- (c) Blankets and pillows furnished without charge and on request, and
- (d) Snack bar providing sandwiches, soft drinks, and coffee on request without charge.

¹ The proposed service charges range from 50 cents to \$1.50. The charges and rules and regulations applicable thereto are set forth in detail in the application. They would apply in addition to the present passenger fares.

Applicant's other schedules will continue to be operated with conventional equipment and services and at no change in fares.

Applicant states that it is inaugurating this special service in an effort to regain a substantial volume of traffic lost in recent years to private automobiles, streamlined coach-fare train service, air-coach travel, and first-class rail and air services. Applicant asserts that it has made a study of the cost involved in maintaining this service and has found that the proposed service charge will recover only the cost of the special services. Applicant states that it desires to establish the special services immediately in order that public acceptance may be given a fair test during the season of peak holiday travel.

Interested parties have been notified of the filing of the application. No objection to its being granted has been received.

Upon consideration of all the facts and circumstances, it is concluded that the proposed charges are justified for a reasonable trial period. Applicant will be authorized to establish the proposed service charges for a six-month period, during which time it may determine from actual experience the costs incurred in providing the special services. Authority to continue the charges thereafter may be sought by the timely filing of a supplemental application with the necessary supporting data.

The following order will be made effective on the date hereof and authority will be granted to establish the charges herein authorized on less than statutory notice.

Therefore, good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Transcontinental Bus System, Inc., be and it is hereby authorized to establish, on not less than three days' notice to the Commission and the public, to expire

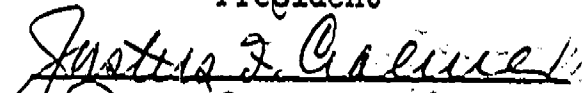
June 30, 1956, the special service charges as specifically set forth in the application filed in this proceeding.

This order shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th day of December, 1955.

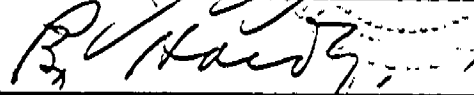


President









Commissioners