

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 5350S

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of AMERICAN BUSLINES, INC., a Delaware corporation, Debtor, In Corporate Reorganization Under Chapter X, by Its Trustee, Richard W. Smith, and Its Additional Trustee, W. F. Aikman, For Authority Under the Provisions of Section 454 of the Public Utilities Code to Increase Fares (Special Service Charges).

Application No. 38257

OPINION AND ORDER

American Buslines, 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 Sacramento and Stockton, a special service charge to be applicable on two designated schedules.¹ It also requests authority to establish the proposed charge on August 1, 1956, on less than statutory notice.

The application shows that the two schedules to which the proposed service charge 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, as well as free use of electric razors, and
- (d) Snack bar providing sandwiches, soft drinks, and coffee on request without charge.

¹The proposed service charge is 50 cents. The charge and rules and regulations applicable thereto are set forth in detail in the application. It 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 the proposed service charge will recover only the cost of the special services. It points out that by Decisions Nos. 52376, 53248 and 53292 of December 20, 1955, June 19 and 26, 1956, respectively, in Application No. 37556, Transcontinental Bus System, Inc., an affiliate of American Buslines, Inc., was authorized to establish special service charges on certain of its schedules. Applicant states that those special services have proven successful.

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 charge is justified. So that applicant may establish the special service charge as soon as possible, 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 American Buslines, Inc., be and it is hereby authorized to establish, on not less than two days'

notice to the Commission and the public, the special service charge 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 51st day of

January, 1956.

John E. McNeill
President
R. H. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

Commissioners