

Decision No. 58030**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY and RAILWAY)
 EXPRESS AGENCY, INCORPORATED, for) Application No. 40640
 authority to discontinue agency at)
 Biggs, County of Butte, State of)
 California, and to maintain said)
 station as a Class A nonagency station.)

Randolph Karr and Harold S. Lentz, for applicants.
I. S. Wilson and Harvey D. Loder for The Order of
 Railroad Telegraphers; Robert Millington, for
 the City of Biggs; D. E. King, for Red Top Rice
 Growers, and Glen R. Harris, for Butte County
 Rice Growers of Richvale, and Rice Growers
 Association of California; H. S. Brink for Doty
 Brick Warehouse and Biggs Rice Dryers, T. W.
Green for Grosjean Rice Milling Company of San
 Francisco and S. M. Persons for T. & P. Rice
 Dryers, protestants.

O P I N I O N

By application filed December 4, 1958, Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Incorporated, request an order authorizing them to discontinue their respective agencies at Biggs, Butte County, and to maintain said station as a Class A nonagency station.

Public hearing was held on January 9, 1959, in Biggs before Examiner Rowe, at which time evidence was adduced and the matters submitted for decision.

This station is located on the East Valley Subdivision approximately four miles north of Gridley. Most of the freight carried to and from this point moves in carload lots. Less-than-

carload shipments are transported by Pacific Motor Trucking Company. No passenger trains move over this line and only two passenger tickets were sold by this agent during the twelve-month period ending September 30, 1958 and no baggage was handled.

From the evidence of record it appears and the Commission finds, that public convenience and necessity no longer require that either applicant maintain its agency at Biggs. The service of the railroad applicant can just as efficiently be handled by the Gridley agent. No inconvenience should be suffered by the public by closing this agency. More than \$5,000 will be saved annually by the railroad's closing this station. The gross revenue annually received by Railway Express amounting to approximately \$1,200 makes it infeasible for that applicant to operate here in the absence of the railroad agent.

The carload freight movement handled by this agency has been substantial amounting to 414 carloads in the twelve months ending September 30, 1957, and 117 in the next such period. But from the evidence of record it appears that the agent from the nearby agency of Gridley can handle it just as efficiently as can a local agent. It is no greater inconvenience to shippers and receivers of carload freight to place a toll free call to Gridley than to use the telephone for a local call as at present.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held and the above matters having been duly submitted,

IT IS ORDERED that the Southern Pacific Company and the Railway Express Agency, Incorporated, are authorized to discontinue their agencies at Biggs, Butte County, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Southern Pacific Company shall continue to maintain said station in a Class A nonagency status.
- b. Applicants shall give not less than ten days' notice to the public of discontinuance of agency service by posting notice thereof at the station.
- c. Within ninety days after the effective date hereof, applicants, upon not less than ten days' notice to this Commission and to the public, shall file, in duplicate, amendments to their tariffs showing the changes herein authorized and shall make reference in such tariff amendments to this decision as authority therefor.
- d. The authorization herein granted shall expire if not exercised within one hundred twenty days after the effective date hereof.
- e. Within thirty days after discontinuance of service as herein authorized, applicants shall notify this Commission in writing thereof and of compliance with the above conditions.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of FEBRUARY, 1959.

C. L. Fox
President
W. H. Dooling
Theodore Dooling
Everett H. Dooling
Commissioners