

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 58570

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application of Melvin H. Bunting, DBA Lee's Auto Stage Line, for abandonment of operating rights on Arrow Route to Fontana.	} } } } }	Application No. 41050
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O P I N I O N

By this application filed April 20, 1959, Melvin H. Bunting, who operates as a passenger stage corporation in Rialto, California, and between that community and other nearby points, requests authority to abandon service between Rialto and Fontana.

The City Manager of Fontana has written to the Commission stating that the City Council has considered this application, and since it is obvious that this section of the bus route is losing money regularly, it is not the intention of the City Council to protest this service abandonment.

The Commission staff has made a careful study of this operation and, under date of May 6, 1959, made its recommendations in which it stated the following:

"Service has been operated over this route since August 1954 having been authorized by Decisions Numbers 49683 and 50054 dated February 16, 1954 and May 18, 1954 respectively. Initially 11 round trips daily were operated. The present schedule of 4 round trips daily, except Saturdays and Sundays, has been in effect for approximately 2 years.

"Since its inception this section of the line has consistently lost money, the revenue at no time coming close to equaling out-of-pocket costs.

"Listed below is revenue and passenger information which will indicate how futile the operation is:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Passengers</u>
April 1	\$ 3.25	16
April 2	2.10	10
April 3	4.10	20
April 6	2.15	10
April 7	2.84	14
April 8	3.90	19
April 9	2.80	14
April 10	3.10	15
April 12	1.90	9
April 13	<u>3.70</u>	<u>18</u>
Total	\$29.84	145
Average	2.98	14.5

"The number of passengers is based on the average fare per passenger on April 13, 1959.

Daily miles	34.2
Out-of-pocket cost per mile	\$ .29
Daily out-of-pocket cost	\$9.92
Daily loss	\$6.94

"In our opinion there is no likelihood of increased patronage in the foreseeable near future. There are three reasons for this opinion. These are:

1. The area along Arrow Route between Fontana and Rialto is too sparsely settled to justify service.
2. The restriction contained in Decision No. 50054 prohibits the transportation of passengers between points west of the intersection of Palmetto Avenue and Arrow Route in Fontana and points north and east of the Pacific Electric Railway Company's right-of-way at Acacia Avenue and Riverside Avenue in Rialto.
3. Metropolitan Transit Authority operates 17 round trips daily along Foothill Boulevard ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of Arrow Route) between Fontana and San Bernardino via Rialto.

"Since it appeared obvious to us that the discontinuance of service is justified and that the application would undoubtedly be granted after a public hearing, it seemed that to hold a hearing would serve no useful purpose and would just be an unnecessary expense. Accordingly we contacted City Administrator Doyle Miller of Fontana, and City Manager McGill of Rialto, to determine their Cities' positions in the matter. Neither City will protest and the City of Fontana's letter of May 4, 1959 to this effect is attached. A similar letter from the City of Rialto will be forthcoming. On April 19, 1959, applicant posted the following notices in its buses and terminals:

'On April 19, 1959, an application was filed with the California Public Utilities Commission to abandon service west of Riverside Avenue on Arrow Route to Fontana.'

"The notices are still posted and no protests have been received.

"In view of the foregoing it is recommended that the application be granted ex parte . . ."

From a consideration of the verified application and the above and other information, the Commission is of the opinion that public convenience and necessity no longer require that Melvin H. Bunting continue to operate as a passenger stage corporation as that term is defined in Section 226 of the Public Utilities Code between the above points. He will, consequently, be authorized to abandon this operation. A public hearing is unnecessary.

O R D E R

Application therefor having been filed and the Commission being advised in the premises,

IT IS ORDERED that Melvin H. Bunting, doing business as Lee's Auto Stage Line, is authorized to discontinue service over and along Arrow Highway between Sierra Avenue in Fontana and Riverside Avenue in Rialto, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Applicant shall give the public not less than five days' notice of the proposed discontinuance of service by posting notices thereof in his buses and terminals.
- b. Effective concurrently with the discontinuance of the service and within sixty days after the effective date hereof, on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public, applicant shall amend his tariffs and time schedules to reflect the authority herein granted.

- c. Within thirty days after the discontinuance of service, applicant shall notify the Commission in writing of his compliance with this order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 8th day of June, 1959.

L. J. Fox  
President  
W. L. B. B. B.  
W. L. B. B. B.  
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Commissioners