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Decision No. _____

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe)
 Railway Company (Coast Lines),)
 California Western Railroad, Great)
 Northern Railway Company, Northwestern)
 Pacific Railroad Company, Southern)
 Pacific Company, Union Pacific)
 Railroad Company, The Western Pacific)
 Railroad Company by E. B. Padrick,)
 Agent, for authority to publish)
 certain increased rates and charges)
 applying in connection with the)
 transportation of baggage and other)
 articles and property and to publish)
 other changes as outlined herein.)

Application No. 46146
 (Filed January 24, 1964)

O P I N I O N

By this application various railroads seek authority to make increases in certain of their rates, charges and tariff provisions for the transportation of baggage and related property.^{1/} The following is a summary of the proposed increases which are set out in detail in the application.^{2/}

1. On bicycles, cots and invalid chairs returned without occupants, and saddles, establish a minimum charge based on a weight of 50 pounds and a minimum collection of \$1.00.
2. On stretchers returned without occupants, establish a minimum charge based on a weight of 25 pounds and a minimum collection of \$1.00.

1/ The railroads involved are The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, California Western Railroad, Great Northern Railway Company, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, Southern Pacific Company, Union Pacific Railroad Company and The Western Pacific Railroad Company.

2/ Applicants also propose reduction in rates for which Commission authority is not required if made on thirty days' notice.

3. On dogs, small household pets and unoccupied portulungs, establish a minimum collection of \$1.00.
4. Increase the minimum collection on compressed gases, motion pictures and emergency shipments of biologicals and merchandise from 75 cents to \$1.00 and on burial cases from \$3.00 to \$5.00.
5. Increase the minimum collection under excess baggage rates from 38 cents to \$1.00.
6. In connection with furnishing kitchen baggage cars without additional charges for military cadres, increase the minimum personnel requirement from 27 to 31 persons.
7. Eliminate various items as property handled as baggage including miners' packs, children's sleds, fireworks, hair dryers, sample radios and record players, and certain perishable foodstuffs.
8. Substitute "baby carts" for children's "go-carts" as articles of baggage.
9. Make certain changes of a *limited nature in* provisions pertaining to sample baggage, redemption of tickets and handling of claims.

The proposed increases are identical with those made effective January 1, 1964, on interstate traffic and on intrastate traffic in most western states except California.

With respect to the application generally, applicants allege that they have experienced continually rising costs in recent years. As examples, wages of employees, including passenger service employees, have increased about 21 percent from 1957 through 1962. For the same period, fringe benefits paid to railroad employees have materially increased. Applicants further allege that the proposed increases are necessary to more nearly meet the increased costs of operation and will only partially offset these costs.

The proposed increases in minimum collections to \$1.00, it is alleged, would affect only a very small portion of the baggage traffic. For example, it is stated that the Southern Pacific Company handled only 19 pieces of baggage during July 1963 and 23 pieces during September 1963 at \$1.00 or less.

According to the application, miners' packs are obsolete and are sought to be eliminated as baggage because there are no requests for handling this type of baggage. The elimination of other items as baggage is sought because of the fragile or perishable nature of such items or because the items are not essential parts of passengers' baggage.

The application states that there are no particular organizations or groups moving within California that regularly request the service for which adjustments in rates are proposed herein.

Based upon the application, the Commission finds that the sought increases are justified. The application should be granted. A public hearing is not necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Applicants are authorized to establish the increased rates, rules and regulations as proposed in Application No. 46146. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of the order herein may be made effective not earlier than thirty days after the effective date hereof on not less than thirty days' notice to the Commission and to the public.

2. The authority herein granted shall expire unless exercised within ninety days after the effective date of this order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of March, 1964.

William W. Bennett
President
John H. ...
George C. Grover
Frederick B. Hildreth

Commissioners

Commissioner Everett C. McKeage, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.