

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 68385

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of THE WESTERN UNION )  
 TELEGRAPH COMPANY, a corporation, )  
 for an order authorizing it to )  
 increase certain intrastate rates )  
 and charges applicable to tele- )  
 graph service within the State of )  
 California. )

Application No. 47032  
 Filed October 7, 1964

OPINION AND ORDER

Applicant seeks authority to increase rates for message telegraph service, press message service and money order services rendered in California, the proposed rates therefor being identical with rates for such services throughout the nation, so as to obtain needed revenues and to maintain applicant's policy of applying uniform charges for interstate and intrastate telegraph services.

Applicant's proposed rate revisions have been brought to the attention of the public by means of printed announcements posted in its public offices, by individual notices to its charge-account customers and by a review of its proposals with the American Newspaper Publishers Association. No protest has come to the attention of the Commission.

The proposed rate increases are as follows:

1. A 5-cent charge to be added to prepaid telegraph messages when the company records the message by telephone or provides a messenger pickup of the message.
2. An approximate 10 percent increase in domestic and foreign money order charges.
3. A service charge increase of 10 cents for preparing confirmation copies of messages and a resultant uniform charge of 25 cents for such copies.

4. An increase of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per word for words in excess of 15 in Fast Telegrams, and an increase varying from 1 cent to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents for each five words over 50 in Day Letters, depending upon the distance, and an increase varying from  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent to 1 cent for each five words over 50 in Night Letters, depending upon the distance.
5. Increases varying from 0.4 cent to 1.9 cents for each five words over 15 words in press rates, depending upon distance and classification.

New labor contracts, which became effective on June 1, 1964, when annualized have the effect of reducing applicant's system-wide rate of return from approximately 5.99 percent to approximately 3.59 percent. Applicant's separated California operations for the year 1963 reflected an earnings loss. The rate increases proposed herein will increase its California revenues by some \$209,800 annually. It anticipates that such revenue increase will reduce its net deficit in California from approximately \$852,400 to about \$547,600.

In view of applicant's showing herein, the Commission finds that (1) applicant is in need of and entitled to rate relief, (2) the rate levels requested herein are reasonable, (3) the increases in rates and charges hereinafter authorized are justified and present rates, insofar as they differ from those authorized herein, are for the future unjust and unreasonable, and (4) public hearing in this matter is unnecessary.

The Commission concludes that the application herein should be granted.

IT IS ORDERED that The Western Union Telegraph Company be, and it is hereby, authorized to file with this Commission, on or after the effective date of this order and in conformity with the provisions of General Order No. 96-A, the tariffs set forth in Exhibit 6 attached to the application herein and, on not less than

five days' notice to the public and to this Commission, to make said tariffs effective for service rendered on and after January 1, 1965.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22nd day of DECEMBER, 1964.

Frederick P. Holdcroft  
President  
Walter J. Mitchell  
Ernest G. Ray  
George E. Hoover  
William B. Beards  
Commissioners