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Decision No. 75277 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, a corporation, for authority to discontinue agency service at their station at Holt, County of San Joaquin, State of California.

Application No. 50355 (Filed June 26, 1968)

John J. Schimmenti, for applicant.

Frank M. Adams, for Zukerman-Mandeville; and

K. A. Vose, for Transportation Communication

Employees Union; protestants.

Kenneth G. Soderland, for the Commission staff.

OPINION

By this application, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company requests authority to discontinue its agency service at Holt, San Joaquin County.

A duly noticed public hearing was held before Examiner O'Leary at Holt on November 21, 1968 and the matter was submitted. Evidence in support of the application was presented by seven witnesses for applicant. No witnesses in opposition to the application were presented. Protestants and a member of the Commission's staff participated in the development of the record through crossexamination of applicant's witnesses.

The evidence adduced discloses that the station at Holt is staffed by a single employee who is on duty from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. five days a week. The station is closed one hour a day for lunch.

Under the proposal to close the Holt agency the services presently available through the agent will be available through the

Stockton Agent or personnel located at applicant's Mormon Yard located at Stockton. Toll-free telephone service is presently available between Holt and Stockton since both locales are within the same telephone exchange. The station at Stockton is open from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. five days a week and Mormon Yard is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The applicant will furnish a box with a lock where the shippers can place the bills of lading which will be signed by the conductor of the train picking up the freight cars. The shippers' copies will be left in the box for later pickup by them.

The volume of business handled at the Holt station for the years 1966, 1967 and the first six months of 1968 was as follows:

	1966	<u> 1967</u>	1968*
Carloads:			
Originated	76	98	12
Terminated	0	0	0

^{*} January through June

Less-than-carload shipments are handled by Santa Fe Trail Transportation Company, a subsidiary of applicant. No change is contemplated in this service. Western Union Express and passenger tickets are not handled at Holt.

Applicant estimates that elimination of the agency will result in annual savings in excess of \$9000.

After consideration the Commission finds that public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance by The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe of an agency at Holt and concludes that the application should be granted.