

Decision No. 77775

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Air Astro Transportation, Inc., doing business as "ASTRO AIR", a registered corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of California, to operate as a common air carrier of passengers and property, under a certificate of public convenience and necessity between the terminal points of Los Angeles International Airport and Lompoc Airport (as Route #1); and between the terminal Lompoc Airport and co-terminals San Jose Airport and San Francisco International Airport (as Route #2 and #2B).

Application No. 50478

Steven F. Udvar-Hazy, Louis L. Gonda, and William J. Freschi, Jr., for applicant.  
R. G. Thayer, Clyde Neary and Ed. Crawford,  
for the Commission staff.

ORDER REVOKING OPERATIVE AUTHORITY

By Decision No. 75239 dated January 21, 1969, in Application No. 50478, Air Astro Transportation, Inc., a California corporation, was authorized to transport passengers as a passenger air carrier as defined in Section 2741 of the California Public Utilities Code, over the following routes: (1) Between Lompoc and Los Angeles and (2) between Lompoc and San Jose and San Francisco, with the restriction that all passengers transported must originate at or be destined to Lompoc.

Air Astro Transportation, Inc., inaugurated passenger air carrier service between Lompoc and Los Angeles on February 17, 1969, and continued to operate such service until the end of June, 1969, reportedly at an operating loss. No passenger air carrier service was conducted between Lompoc and San Jose and San Francisco.

On August 31, 1969, Air Astro Transportation, Inc., canceled the mandatory insurance protection required pursuant to Commission General Order No. 120-B. Air Astro Transportation, Inc., did not notify the Commission thirty days prior to its discontinuance of operations pursuant to the provisions of Section 2769.5 of the California Public Utilities Code.

On November 4, 1969, the Commission issued an order (Decision No. 76384 in Application 50478) providing for revocation of applicant's operating authority unless a public hearing was requested, whereupon the revocation order would be suspended. Applicant's representative filed a pleading on November 20, 1969, which requested that a public hearing be held and that applicant's operating rights not be revoked.

A hearing was held on June 23, 1970, in Los Angeles, before Examiner Fraser. The applicant's representative made a short statement for the record. He advised he was negotiating with an investment company to either re-finance the applicant or to sell its operating authority. He admitted that at least three investors had been approached prior to the hearing without success. He further admitted that the applicant had little to sell or offer other than its name and inoperative certificate. The staff provided the testimony of two witnesses. Staff counsel recommended that the applicant's certificate be revoked and the applicant's representative requested a continuance for six months to provide sufficient time to conclude the negotiations regarding the certificate.

The Commission finds that the request for a continuance of six months should be denied since negotiations to sell or re-finance have been continuing since the applicant ceased operations and there is no indication that future discussions have any hope of success.

Based on the findings herein the Commission concludes that the certificate granted to Air Astro Transportation, Inc., by Decision No. 75239, should be canceled.

IT IS ORDERED that the passenger air carrier operative rights created by Decision No. 75239 in Application No. 50478 are hereby revoked, and all effective tariffs and timetables on file with the Commission in the name of Air Astro Transportation, Inc., are hereby canceled.

The Secretary is directed to mail a certified copy of this order to Air Astro Transportation, Inc., Post Office Box 1700, Beverly Hills, California 90213, last known address as shown in the Commission's records.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of SEPTEMBER, 1970.

*[Signature]* Chairman  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]* Commissioners

Commissioner William Symons, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

Commissioner Thomas Moran, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.