Decision No. 90608 JUL 3 1 1979

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIF

In the matter of the Application) of Peter Lawrence Heine, dba THE) MENDOCINO STAGE, for authority to) increase fares for the transportation) of Passengers and Express on its) regular scheduled route between) Ft. Bragg, Caspar, Mendocino, Little) River, County Airport and Heritage) House.

Application No. 58964 (Filed June 27, 1979)

<u>O P I N I O N</u>

Peter Lawrence Heine, doing business as The Mendocino Stage, presently operates as a Passenger Stage Corporation (PSC-975) transporting passengers and their baggage and express between Fort Bragg, Caspar, Mendocino, Little River, County Airport and Heritage House. Applicant also operates as a Permitted Charter Party Carrier of Passengers (TCP-733-P).

Applicant is engaged in the business of operating passenger and express stage service over a regular route between Fort Bragg and Heritage House with service to and between intermediate points and operates under the authority granted by Decision 85109 dated November 12, 1975 in Application 55954. The fares currently in effect were established at that time.

By this application The Mendocino Stage seeks authority to increase its charges for passenger service and package express service by varying amounts. These amounts range between \$0.25 and \$1.00 for passenger service and \$0.50 and \$0.75 for express service. The applicant aldeges that this amount will average 25 percent for both passengers and express.

The Transportation Division of the Commission reviewed the data in the application, the Annual Report to the Commission and the operations of applicant.

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The Annual Report to the Commission shows that for the year 1978 applicant had an operating loss of \$441.55 with no provision for salary for the owner's services.

Applicant alleges that due to increases in fuel, insurance, labor and vehicle maintenance that a larger loss will be experienced in the near future.

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In accordance with Sections 730.3 and 730.5 of the Public Utilities Code, the State and local agencies operating or planning public transit systems were notified and asked for comments regarding the proposed fare increase.

Notice of the filing of this application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on June 29, 1979. No protest or request for public hearing has been received.

After consideration, the Commission finds that:

1. Applicant has been operating and will continue to operate at a loss in the future.

2. The requested fare increase would result in additional revenue of approximately \$11,700 annually and allow the owner a salary for his services.

3. The proposed fare increase is justified. A public hearing is not necessary.

We conclude that the application should be granted.

<u>O R D E R</u>

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Peter Lawrence Heine, doing business as The Mendocino Stage, is authorized to establish the increased fare as proposed in

Application No. 58964. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of this order may be made effective not earlier than five days after the effective date of this order on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public.

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

3. In addition to the required posting and filing of tariffs, applicant shall give notice to the public by posting in its buses and

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terminals a printed explanation of its fares. Such notice shall be posted not less than five days before the effective date of the fare changes and shall remain posted for a period of not less than thirty days.

Because the carrier is operating at a loss, the effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated _____JUL 3 1 1979____, at San Francisco, California.

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