

Transport/Central

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Urban/Suburban

"WHEN DOES THE BUS LEAVE?" "WHEN CAN YOU MAKE IT?" -- Five Northwestern University students have suggested a bus system that would operate like a taxicab service, providing yet another alternative solution to metropolitan movement problems. A rider needing transportation would call a central computer, stating his origin and destination. The computer would coordinate his and other riders' trips and radio dispatch buses accordingly. The driver of the four to twenty passenger coach would thus have a load of riders with similar origins and destinations and could choose his own route to and from those points. Fares would be collected on board the bus, and a credit card system would be a feature of the novel plan.

BRIDGES, BUSES AND BOXES -- A seventy-year-old structure is to be replaced this autumn and in all probability its disappearance will be matched by one of the Chicago Transit Authority's dozen remaining trolley coach lines. The Kedzie bridge over the Sanitary and Ship Canal at about 34th Street will give way to a new, wider structure beginning late this year and when construction begins, CTA's #52 KEDZIE-CALIFORNIA route must be converted at least temporarily to motor bus operation. If the conversion becomes permanent, which is quite probable, it will be aided in part by the delivery of the first units of an order of 176 new motor buses, for which the advertising of bids was authorized by the CTA board February 14. The large-capacity units will cost a total of 5 million dollars. The CTA is currently the recipient of other equipment designed to improve passenger security on the rapid transit system. Being installed at several locations on the two Loop-area subways are police call boxes, connected directly with a department dispatcher, and for which no coin is necessary. If the units are effective, they will be installed elsewhere also.

TRANSIT TALK -- Chicago's other subway also "surfaced" briefly during the week. The more-or-less abandoned 42-mile system formerly operated by the Chicago Tunnel Company to haul garbage, cinders and other freight was suggested for use as an improvised lockup to hold rioters during the predicted disturbances this summer. Conceived in the '90s, the labyrinthine maze of tunnels some 40 feet below Loop-area streets has been dormant since the company went bankrupt some twenty years ago....Cook County (the Chicago area) has formed an Urban Transportation Bureau to develop long range plans for integrated county-wide transportation. The primary objective of the new bureau will be to coordinate highway and mass transportation plans....HUD has given Bi-State Transit (St. Louis) a \$170,000 technical study grant. It will be used to assist in funding the last two phases of a rapid transit study for the St. Louis area. (T/C - 12/1/67)....HUD has also given \$206,000 to Case Western Reserve University of Cleveland for a study of downtown transportation problems in that city.

MORE MEANDERINGS -- Lakeshore Transit (Racine and Kenosha, Wisconsin) has discontinued evening, Sunday and holiday service as expected. The company was unsuccessful in getting a subsidy from either of the two cities it serves.... Springfield (Illinois) citizens were a bit luckier. In a special referendum

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