

Transport/Central

VOLUME TWO, NUMBER TEN

Urban/Suburban

UTA: HUD TO DOT -- On February 26, President Johnson handed to Congress a plan for setting up in 60 days a new agency to handle an almost \$600 million urban mass transportation program. No new legislation is needed to effect a transfer in effect of the present Urban Transportation Administration from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Transportation, where it will become the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. DOT administers other transportation projects, and the move, which is expected to engender no serious opposition in Congress will provide concentrated control and management of related transportation programs. An administrator is being sought for the reorganized agency, and observers are betting that chairman Ben W. Heineman of the financially-successful Chicago & North Western Railway will be tabbed for the post.

IC: PROTESTS AND PROMISES -- After a vigorous complaint by the railway on February 26 that an Illinois Commerce Commission order to upgrade its commuter equipment immediately amounted to confiscation of property, the commission reversed itself and ordered a rehearing. The order had also required the IC to reinstate its former 25 ride ticket at a slight increase in fares for commuters going beyond Homewood. The Illinois Central Railroad Commuters Association had wanted the railway to re-establish the 25 ride rate, which it was allowed to drop without a hearing last year (T/C-8/1/67) without any increase in cost, and is currently negotiating with the IC on proposals to be placed before the commission at the rehearing relative to both matters. The railway is currently working with the South Suburban Mass Transit District in negotiations with HUD for a \$24 million grant to purchase new equipment.

TRANSIT TALK -- The Metropolitan Transit Commission of Minneapolis-St. Paul has formally approved the emergency increases in Twin City Lines fares that went into effect February 3, upon authority of the Minnesota Railroad and Warehouse Commission....Elsewhere on the fare front, Toledo student fares have also gone up. During school hours, the hike is from 10¢ to 11¢, while at other times student rates rose from 20¢ to 25¢. This latter rate will be further increased to 35¢ (to correspond with the prevailing adult rate) on September 1; tokens will sell (also at the regular adult rate) at 5 for \$1.60. There will be no change in the present special school bus fare of 20¢. The Community Traction Company requested the increases in an attempt to curb its own rapidly rising deficit.

ONE-LINERS -- The Toronto Transit Commission is to test a two-way radio system in a project involving 90 of its buses....TTC's Lawrence station on the to-be-begun this year extension of the Yonge Subway will be 65 feet underground, and will be served by an escalator extending 40 feet upward to mezzanine level....The Cleveland Transit System is to sell 2 1963 GMC PD-4106's and one 1964 Flixible it acquired when it took over the Berea Bus Line last month.

March 8, 1968

Interurban

WAIT TILL NEXT WEEK -- Last week was a slow one for train-off news. The Milwaukee Road has asked the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to discontinue #117 (AM NB) and 118 (PM SB), the Varsity, between Chicago and Madison, to be effective on March 29....Newly-married Penn-Central wants off for #94-95, the Kentuckian, between Logansport (Indiana) and Louisville, to be effective March 24....The Union Pacific is asking to drop #69-70, Kansas City-Salina (Kansas) on March 18....and the ICC did not investigate Louisville & Nashville #14-19, Bowling Green (Kentucky)-Memphis; last run "ceremonies" were held March 1....And, in one of those uncommon moves, the same commission ordered the Burlington to put back a pair of runs. Recently consolidated with the Empire Builder/North Coast Limited combined Chicago-Twin Cities run, the afternoon Twin City Zephyr must now be operated as a separate train on its former schedule on Fridays and Sundays. The ICC said it found the train was "comparatively well patronized" on weekends in ordering the unusual reinstatement.

RAIL WRAPUP -- Still another former interurban is in the news (for the last time). The Northeast Oklahoma Railway has been absorbed into the Frisco....The Illinois Commerce Commission has joined with Nebraska and Colorado in asking Congress to declare a moratorium on passenger train discontinuances and to investigate the impact that the loss of train service is having on the nation.

MORE MERGER MATTERS -- The Interstate Commerce Commission last Wednesday set May 31 as the deadline for inclusion into the Norfolk & Western Railway of the Delaware & Hudson and Boston & Maine railroads. D&H stockholders are expected to vote on the matter May 22. A third line to become a part of the N&W, Erie-Lackawanna, is expected to be merged into the system by April 1 (T/C - 2/16/68). Earlier ICC orders put the deadline for inclusion of the three lines into the N&W as May 4 (as an indirect condition to the Pennsylvania-New York Central merger), but D&H requested the later date on behalf of itself and neighbor B&M. Both of the latter carriers have been the victims of passenger revenue losses, but D&H recently has re-equipped its Montreal-New York Laurentian trains with refurbished second-hand motive power and dome units.In a related matter, the Commission made final its tentative grant of authority last year for Chesapeake & Ohio/Baltimore & Ohio to control the Western Maryland. A merger between C&O/B&O and N&W is also currently in the works.

JET JOTTINGS -- Last week's announcement by American Airlines that it was going to purchase 50 McDonnell-Douglas DC-10 skybuses heralded commercial aviation's largest single order. The \$800 million purchase surpasses the 1966 Pan American order for \$525 million worth of Boeing 747's, and United's 1967 purchase of 79 jet transports from Boeing and McDonnell-Douglas. Total orders for Boeing jet transports have now exceeded 1800....McDonnell-Douglas' DC-9 has been stretched again, into an aircraft capable of seating 125 passengers in an economy-class configuration. The first of the DC-9-40's will go into service for the Scandinavian Airlines System....That great name in aviation, Vickers, has just completed its 100th year in the manufacture of planes, ships, tanks and guns. Most famous Vickers aircraft was the Supermarine Spitfire; on the commercial side the company is best known for the Vickers Viscount and the VC-10 series.

AIRLINE ADDENDA -- Socony Mobil has ordered another Lockheed Dash 8 JetStar to replace one lost in a freak maintenance accident....Recent sales to private firms include 3 Fan Jet Falcons to Tenneco Chemicals, which also operates a BAC-111, a JetStar. 2 Viscounts and 11 other assorted aircraft....Ling-Temco-Vought will get the first corporate Boeing 737....United Air Lines and TWA will try a Lockheed JetStar for use as a pilot trainer....The first Grumman Gulfstream II went to National Distillers and Chemical Corporation....The Greater Cincinnati Airport has received an OK after FAA investigators blamed a faulty altimeter for the crash of a TWA Convair 880 1½ miles out on the approach.