

Transport/Central

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Urban/Suburban

CRIME UNDER THE STREETS -- Although warm weather has caused an increase of violence on CTA subway and elevated trains, the crime rate on the whole is lower than it was last year at this time, according to Chicago police. A "kidnapping" (actually the forcible removal from a train to the platform of a passenger by two men posing as policemen, who subsequently robbed and released him at the station) early Monday was widely reported in the local press, prompting a reassessment (in the press) of the measures being taken to insure the safety of CTA passengers. Only 68 men remain out of an original force (as of last summer) of 100 CTA policemen, supplemented by an undisclosed number of city policemen, and the private (CTA) force is dwindling, largely as the result of uncertainty about its future status (see T/C-9/1/67, et seq.)....On a related matter, methods to eliminate assaults and robberies of bus drivers will be evaluated and tested under a \$206,092 granted awarded May 27 by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In announcing the grant to the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District of Oakland, Secretary Weaver noted that Washington, D. C. and Chicago are among five potential city participants in the study, which begins immediately. The first phase of the study will collect data on actual robberies and assaults, the second will investigate technology that might be applied to their prevention and the third will actually test some of the more promising methods....In the nation's capital itself, drivers for D. C. Transit and its subsidiary W. V. & M Coach Company have voted to restore night service in most of the District and its environs served by the two firms. Many drivers had been assaulted and robbed and one had been murdered, and now company officials have worked out a plan involving the use of scrip given to passengers in lieu of change. Passengers would be able to redeem these coupons at company offices during regular business hours, or use them as a credit against future fares. To accommodate patrons with coins larger than required for their fare, the operator would maintain a change fund of only \$10. All fares (and the bills for which a scrip receipt would be given) would be deposited in the fare box by the passenger on the affected night runs.

OUT TO PASTURE -- A fleet of trolley coaches (some with more than a million miles of service) will be retired by the Seattle Transit System with the aid of a \$2,385,215 HUD grant. Seattle will use the funds to help purchase 70 new 51-passenger, air-conditioned, radio-equipped, diesel buses to replace 105 trolley coaches, all of which are 20-year veterans. The purchase is part of a general transportation modernization project which will cost an estimated \$5,327,056. Part of the grant will be used to build a new garage and terminal at the Mercer Street Terminal site and to remodel part of an existing garage building. STS plans a significant rerouting of its lines to provide direct bus service between the low income sector adjacent to Seattle's central business district and the medical and educational centers to the north and northwest where many low-income, minority group residents are employed. Seattle Transit operates units of Pullman and Twin Coach manufacture on a pattern of routes linking the central business district with its immediate environs; the newest coaches were delivered in 1944. An important factor in the retention of trolley coach operation in Seattle is the renowned Queen Anne Hill, whose slope is so steep that motor buses are effectively barred from operating on it; it is assumed that alternative arrangements to continue servicing this area are being made.

REBUILDING RICHMOND'S RAPID -- Two miles of relocated and completely rebuilt private right-of-way is expected to be placed in operation at the end of June on the Staten Island Rapid Transit in New York's borough of Richmond. The relocation project is adjacent to the present SIRT right-of-way, but is constructed to much higher standards, eliminating all grade crossings between Jefferson and Oakwood Heights stations. The new right-of-way uses both under- and overpass facilities to avoid street crossings and as a result takes on somewhat of a roller coaster effect. Several new stations are also part of the project. When the SIRT obtains new equipment, as has been promised by New York transit officials, the relocation should permit significantly faster operation. While nearly as complex and long as the Chicago Transit Authority's Lake Street elevated relocation project of 1962, the Staten Island development has largely gone unnoticed in the trade and general press.

NEWS WEEK -- An increase to 35¢ in the basic CTA fare is a distinct possibility if the Authority's deficit does not decrease measurably within the near future, reports Board Chairman George DeMent....A summer of repair work on the Eisenhower Expressway leading to Chicago's western suburbs has resulted in additional riding on the adjacent CTA rapid transit line....HUD has awarded a \$48,000 grant to make a study of the advisability of rapid transit for Louisville, Kentucky....Although New York claims to have stolen a leaf from Chicago's book in combining a rapid transit line with an adjacent expressway (enroute to Gotham's airports), we must point out that the concept actually originated almost 30 years ago on the Cahuenga Pass portion of the San Fernando Valley line of the Pacific Electric Railway, when tracks were relocated to the median strip of the a-building freeway (Service was discontinued in 1952; the strip was paved in 1957).

RIDER'S READER -- The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority is to purchase (for lease to the Atlanta Transit System) 10 new air-conditioned buses. Delivery is set for midsummer.... The Department of Transportation is to assist in financing a two-year study of a four-mile highway to be constructed for the exclusive use of buses as part of a rapid transit system. The highway will be constructed adjacent to Interstate 94 in the Milwaukee area.... Toronto Transit's new subway extensions have been responsible for an upsurge in riding in the Canadian city.... TTC also reports that commemorative tokens, issued on the occasion of the subway's opening, are yet available from the Commission. One bears the Indian crest seal of the Borough of Etobicoke and the other shows a view of Scarborough Bluffs; mint condition tokens are available at 50¢ a pair. Belated thanks to the Texas Division of the Electric Railroaders Association, whose Short Circuit Bulletin contains many kind words about this humble publication; a deep bow is in order toward Editor Rod Varney.... The city council of Sioux City, Iowa's suburb South Sioux City has raised its annual subsidy to NCL-owned Sioux City Lines to \$1,800.... The city of Rochester, New York has officially taken over operation of the Rochester Transit Corporation, effective May 23. National City Lines subsidiary National City Management Company has been awarded a contract to manage the operations of the system.... The Cleveland Transit System is to install two-way radios on its 80 rapid transit cars. CTS is currently installing similar equipment on its buses.... An experimental express bus operation will soon link Minneapolis and St. Paul and their airport. The line will be operated by Twin City Lines under contract with the Twin Cities Area Metropolitan Transit Commission. There is at present no transit service to the busy field.... Fort Worth Transit has raised its basic fare from 25¢ to 30¢. Tokens will be available at 8 for \$1.00.... The Toronto metropolitan area will be the host June 12 and 13 to a major urban transportation conference sponsored by the Institute for Rapid Transit, keyed to the theme: "The Challenge: What the public wants... The Answer: The solution by industry experts... The Example: Toronto's modern and expanding rapid transit system."

Interurban

TRAIN-OFF TIDBITS -- Seaboard Coast Line has petitioned #15-16, Hamlet, N. C.-Birmingham coach locals for June 28.... Norfolk & Western has requested Iowa Commerce Commission permission to discontinue #211-214 between Council Bluffs and the Missouri state line.... Erie-Lackawanna has been told to run #10-15, Hoboken-Buffalo, for another year; the ICC questioned cost data of EL and found the service necessary because of a lack of alternate transportation in the area.... The Interstate Commerce Commission has requested the Congress to conduct hearings into the adequacy of the present national passenger service.... and the ICC has allowed the Association of American Railroads to intervene on behalf of the Southern Pacific (as well as all railroads) against ICC Examiner Messer's recommendations in Docket #34733 (T/C - 4/26/68).

MERGER MISCELLANY -- Delaware & Hudson stockholders have voted in favor of merger with the Norfolk & Western effective July 1, while former president Dumaine sought ways to block the marriage.... Boston & Maine inclusion into the N&W has also been delayed until July 1 pending the outcome of D&H's present control problems.... The state of New Jersey has officially endorsed the N&W/C&O/B&O merger because the plan includes absorption of the bankrupt Central of New Jersey. The state also announced it had purchased, and will lease to the CNJ, 13 new locomotives and 50 refurbished coaches (another 64 reconditioned CNJ coaches are also part of the deal).... The Justice Department has filed its brief with the U. S. District Court citing its reasons for opposing the Northern Lines merger. The major question asked was "why did the ICC reject its own findings on the competitive effects of the merger (the agency's major reason for rejection of the merger in 1966) in allowing the merger in 1968."

TIMELY TOPICS -- A special government-industry task force has reported to Transportation Secretary Alan Boyd that it will be at least seven more months before the Metroliners can operate between New York and Washington; four major technical problems, including poor riding quality, bouncing pantographs and wheel cracks caused by heat remain unsolved.... Surplus Big Dome lounge cars have been assigned to Santa Fe's Texas Chief between Chicago and Houston.... Penn-Central must run #91-92, Albany-Buffalo, for another 90 days pending New York commission hearings.... The Chicago & North Western has petitioned to raise all intercity fares 25% (except Chicago-Milwaukee rates, which would sustain only a 10% boost).... Canadian Vickers will deliver 9 double deck suburban cars, worth \$2.8 million, to the Canadian Pacific for Montreal suburban service starting in June 1969.... Correct Penn-Central's train #357 petition to read Ann Arbor to Chicago. Penn-Central will retain the Detroit-Ann Arbor service for commuters.... We note the absence of Saturday-only NYC 381/B&O 71 - B&O 70/NYC 384, Detroit-Deshler, in the new Chesapeake & Ohio/Baltimore & Ohio schedule.

AIRLINE ADDENDA -- Irish International Airlines will add two flights from O'Hare to Shannon and Dublin in June, using Boeing 707's and bringing the total weekly flights to five.... Varig Brazilian International Airlines will inaugurate a new jet route from Los Angeles to Tokyo via Honolulu on June 27. This marks the first South American carrier to offer jet service to the Orient; Boeing 707's will be used.... TWA has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board to extend its Wichita-New York run to Hartford/Springfield and Boston.... Continental Airlines has been temporarily authorized to serve Austin, Texas as an intermediate point between Midland/Odessa.... The CAB has proposed in a show-cause order to permit Alaska Airlines to operate between Yakutat and Juneau.... The USSR will introduce its first supersonic passenger jet—its Tu-144, carrying 120 at 1500 mph before the year is out.

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