

Transport Central

9 AUGUST 1968

OWEN DAVIES, BOOKSELLER -- We doubt there is one among us who ever considered what the hobby fraternity might be like without Owen Davies. Owen was a unique man who dealt with each customer as an individual, on fair terms and with honesty. His friendly and indispensable service to legions of transportation and western history buffs will be difficult to replace, but the man, a friend, will remain a warm memory. Farewell, friend, you will be missed.

INTERURBAN

ROADBED RIP-RAP -- Dog days for rail news exist as in fishing, and this week is an example: CB&Q has again petitioned to discontinue the separate Friday/Sunday operation of #23, Chicago to St. Paul, effective August 31....Georgia Railroad #1-2, Atlanta-Augusta, have been retimed, using one set of equipment instead of two; with the abandonment of the venerable Augusta Union Station, the train leaves Augusta's Harrisonville Yard at 6:00 AM, and Atlanta at 6:00 PM, with a 3 hour and 45 minute running time....The Seaboard Coast Line is operating those B&O dome sleepers again, this time on the Silver Star, Richmond-Miami....Southern Pacific has added a Grill Car to its Sunset Limited consist, Los Angeles-El Paso....and Class I line-haul passenger revenues were down 10.7% in the first quarter of 1968 compared to the same 1967 period.

MONEY MATTERS -- A Senate-House Conference Committee last week reported out a bill which cuts more deeply than expected into appropriations for the Department of Transportation. The only exception to the cuts was in the area of additional air traffic controllers for the Federal Aviation Administration. The Congress is very concerned about the increasing danger of accidents due to air traffic tie-ups. Some 2,399 additional positions are provided for new FAA employees.

As a whole, the bill was \$280,875,000 over the House-passed version of the DOT bill, but \$154,145,000 under the Senate bill. The House bill, however, was artificially low because no money was included for the Urban Mass Transportation Administration or the Office of High Speed Ground Transportation since continued authorization for the programs had not been obtained at the time the House voted on the bill.

Urban transit was cut another \$25 million; it is now down to \$175 million of which, the Conference said, \$30 million must be used for research, development and demonstration programs. The High Speed Ground programs were cut by \$3,200,000 and all of the cut must be applied to research and development and none to the demonstrations (Northeast Corridor). Thus, the Conference took the opposite approach to urban transit, where it insisted that money be spent for research, than it did for the High Speed Ground program where it required that funds be deleted for research programs.

A rundown of the figures in the bill is quite revealing as to the direction of national transportation policy:

Highways	\$ 31,512,000 (excluding highway trust fund)
Aviation	857,554,000
Railroads	17,900,000
Urban Transit	175,000,000

The Conference report also indicated that House and Senate members desired no money be spent on the proposed High Speed Ground test track until a site is acquired; all money for that purpose was then deleted. It also agreed with the Senate in requiring termination of 54 projects HUD had retained when UMTA was shifted from HUD to DOT.

200s to supplement its present fleet of 32 727-100s....Trans Caribbean Airways has purchased a 727-100....KLM will take delivery of two DC-8-63 units and five DC-9s this summer....Avianca has ordered two Hawker Siddeley 748 turboprop aircraft....Air France has taken delivery of the first four of ten Boeing 727-200s....Piedmont will purchase six additional Boeing 737s....Hawaiian Airlines recently put its fourth DC-9 into service....Ariana Afghan Airlines purchased its first jet, a Boeing 727-100C....Sabena has ordered three more Boeing 707-320Cs....British West Indian Airways will purchase two 48 passenger Avco 748s for its affiliate Leeward Islands Air Transportation....CSA-Czechoslovak Airlines placed its first Ilyushin IL-62 in charter service last month....Western Air Services of San Juan became the first to operate the 200 series De Havilland Twin Otter....SAS has signed up InFlight Motion Pictures to provide wide-screen color movies and stereo/mono sound systems aboard DC-8-63s operating on the North Atlantic route....The 125 passenger DC-9-40 series aircraft has been certified by the FAA; SAS is the first carrier scheduled to use the craft.

AIRLINE ADDENDA -- On August 4 a pilot apparently intent on suicide crashed a stolen Cessna 180 into the tallest building in Las Vegas, the Tower Hotel....The same day saw a freak accident involving a North Central Convair 580 and a Cessna 150 in a mid-air collision south of Milwaukee. The 580 landed safely with the smaller plane embedded in its fuselage....Qantas has inaugurated the first all-cargo jet freighter service to Australia from San Francisco; Boeing 707-338Cs are used.

URBAN

METROPOLITAN REPORT -- The Chicago Transit Authority is faced with another walkout by dissident drivers August 25. The Concerned Transit Workers, all members of Amalgamated local 241 (with whom they disagree), have complained that promises made them in order to end their earlier July 4 weekend walkout have not been met; prime target of the CTW is greater representation on the union's board, positions hitherto denied to Negroes (although they form a majority of union members). The new strike would take place during the Democratic National Convention, and as we go to press would probably be further complicated by a walkout of most Chicago cab drivers....An earlier experiment on the North-South rapid transit line having been successful, CTA is planning to install rail with concrete ties on the two new lines currently under construction in the Windy City....Motorola will equip those 500 buses with monitoring equipment the CTA and HUD/DOT project calls for to be in service in 1969. The village of Palatine (a northwest Chicago area suburb) has asked for federal aid to develop a transportation center that would include a new Chicago & North Western Railway station and a heliport, in keeping with a C&NW proposal aired earlier this year....The Long Island Rail Road has been cancelling commuter trains because of a slowdown by repair and inspection workmen....The new UMTA bill contains a provision that permits private transit systems to advance up to 50% of the local share of mass transit projects; previously only municipally-operated systems could contribute to federally-assisted grant programs....CTS' Airport Rapid Extension is to open September 13....The city of Fort Wayne is now in the bus business; American Transit Corporation is providing management of the municipal system taken over from Fort Wayne Transit....New equipment has arrived in Tallahassee and Long Beach....Two-way radio equipment has been installed for the first time on Memphis Transit Authority coaches, and additional units are going into service on the Department of Street Railways in Detroit and Bi-State Transit in St. Louis.