

Transport Central

16 AUGUST 1968

URBAN

FRUSTRATING FREEBOOTERS FURTHER -- As a further step toward providing maximum protection for Bi-State passengers and operators, weekly passes will be sold at department stores, banks and other convenient locations instead of on buses, effective in September. According to Bi-State's chief executive officer John Baine, "a substantial portion of the money now handled by bus operators is collected from the sale of passes, and this will greatly reduce exposure to hold-ups and robberies. Although certain protective measures have already been taken, we are continuing to have robberies and assaults aboard our buses. During 1967, there were 43 armed robberies; so far in 1968 there have been 51. Eventually, we are planning to go to a no-change plan where the operator will have no money in his possession or available to him, and all fares will go into a locked vault for which the operator would have no key."

This new step of Bi-State's protection program will supplement measures instituted earlier, including 1) the equipping of all buses in owl and nighttime service with two-way radios providing direct communication with the police department; 2) the employment of specially licensed armed guards in plain clothes to ride buses in certain areas, particularly at night; 3) the equipping of all buses in nighttime service with protective shields behind the operators' seats; 4) the equipping of all buses with 4-way flashing light systems that can be used as a signal for police help in cases of emergency; 5) the permitting of police officers in plain clothes, on or off duty, to ride buses on the showing of their official credentials; 6) the reduction of working funds carried by operators on night time runs in certain areas to a maximum of \$10; and 7) the institution of a program urging passengers to have the exact change for payment of their fares, minimizing the amount of working funds required by the operators.

Currently, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Washington have "exact fare" plans, involving the use of scrip issued to passengers not having the proper amount. It has worked well in those cities, although in Washington the other day a lone bandit held up a D. C. Transit driver and took his scrip.

METRO REPORT -- A further flap is brewing over renewed outbreaks of crime aboard Chicago Transit Authority vehicles. The number of police assigned to system duties has dropped to 250 from the 600 promised last year after that crime wave and Wednesday 5 persons were accosted by robbers and two were stabbed. One Chicago alderman has urged an investigation of CTA security; the Authority's own force (now technically under the jurisdiction of the city's Police Department) has dropped to 69 men from last year's total of 104, while the CTA contends surface and rapid transit system security is the primary responsibility of Chicago police. Funds were provided in the city budget for additional patrolmen, but they seem to have been diverted to foot patrol in high crime areas of the city.

Residents of a middle-income black South Side Chicago neighborhood are protesting Greyhound's plans to relocate its 63rd-Stony Island terminal into their community at 75th and Michigan. The 'Hound wants to rehabilitate an old restaurant for the depot, which would be only a block from the Dan Ryan Expressway....The Long Island Rail Road has made further cuts in train service this week because of the lack of equipment in service due to the dispute with maintenance men; 25 trains were canceled on Monday....A summer service for young people will be tested in Houston with the help of a HUD grant; coaches will operate to a NASA site (the

Manned Space Craft Center) and Ellington Air Force Base....Twin Coach is back in the bus business; the 25-28 passenger TC-25 is now in production designed for light transit service....The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority will subsidize commuter operations on the Boston & Maine and New Haven for another year to the tune of \$4.6 million....MBTA is soon to have its own transit police force....The OEO and DOT are jointly administering a free transit service for rural poor in Raleigh County, W. Va... An interim version of the Seven County Land Use Study transportation report has been issued; the survey recommends the construction of 70 additional miles of rapid transit in the Cleveland area (including 16 miles of subways) by 1990 for \$570 million....Rochester, New York's new fleet color for its buses will be a mixture of blue and green.

INTERURBAN

SUMMER SUMMARY -- The last couple of weeks have brought a trio of train accidents (B&O's Cincinnati, IC's City of New Orleans and SCL's Silver Meteors) and more negative advertising from well-played newspaper accounts....Eight Western railroads have been given authority to increase family fares within Illinois; the present schedule offers a one-way rate for wife and children from 12 to 22 and one-half the one-way rate for children 5 to 12. The new rates are 2/3 and 1/3 of the round trip tariff, respectively....The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac joins our train-off list with a petition on coach-only #8, the Sunland, Richmond to Washington....A discontinuance request for September 12 was made by B&O on the Metropolitan, #11-12, St. Louis-Cincinnati....Memphis Union Station has been allowed to abandon and dismantle its facility; last trains using the station were in March 1968....Rio Grande has petitioned to abandon the outer seven miles of its narrow gauge Aspen branch....Tennessee Central's receiver has recommended that IC, L&N and Southern each get a piece of the bankrupt carrier; the parcels and prices are IC: Hopkinsville-Nashville, \$600,000; L&N: Nashville-Crossville, \$525,000; and Southern: Crossville-Harriman, \$340,000....and Western Pacific president Christie says his company will appeal the California Zephyr decision to the courts because the weight of the ICC's order is contrary to one made a year earlier, though he feels WP has not changed those operating policies earlier praised by the Commission and this time condemned.

TURBULENT AIR WEST -- Invisible Howard Hughes thinks that Air West's service to his sandy retreat, Las Vegas, is "unsatisfactory". Now, when you are Howard Hughes, you don't bother complaining to the CAB—you offer to buy out the line, which he has done. However, it appears that a majority of the stockholders disapprove and the millionaire faces a struggle. Remember your ABC's, Howard.

NEWS BY TWOS -- Greyhound news items always seem to hit our pages in pairs—they have been given ICC permission to purchase a controlling interest in two Southwestern independent bus lines: Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma Coaches of Lubbock (Texas) and Carlsbad Cavern Coaches of El Paso, tho the 'Hound does not appear as enthusiastic about the takeover now as when it filed....Greyhound and Canadian National have held preliminary discussions on possible joint rates and thru bus services in conjunction with CN rail operations.

FLIGHT FACTS -- Mexicana Airlines marks its 44th anniversary this year with the inauguration of daily non-stop Boeing 727 flights between Chicago and Mexico City; this run began in 1957 with DC-4's....Three separate air crashes happened on the same day August 10: A British Eagle Viscount, on the Nürnberg-Munich Autobahn; a private plane on a golf course; and a USAF C-119 on take-off from Clinton Air Base in Ohio.

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