

the suspension period (including any extension thereof), the fare, regulation or practice involved shall take effect at the termination of such period.

(3) In the exercise of its power to prescribe just and reasonable fares and regulations and practices relating thereto, the Commission shall give due consideration, among other factors, to the inherent advantages of transportation by such carriers; to the effect of rates upon the movement of traffic by the carrier or carriers for which the rates are prescribed; to the need, in the public interest, of adequate and efficient transportation service by such carriers at the lowest cost consistent with the furnishing of such service; and to the need of revenues sufficient to enable such carriers, under honest, economical, and efficient management, to provide such service.

(4) It is hereby declared as a matter of legislative policy that in order to assure the Washington Metropolitan District of an adequate transportation system operating as private enterprises the carriers therein, in accordance with standards and rules prescribed by the Commission, should be afforded the opportunity of earning such return as to make the carriers attractive investments to private investors. As an incident thereto, the opportunity to earn a return of at least 6½ per centum net after all taxes properly chargeable to transportation operations, including but not limited to income taxes, on gross operating revenues, shall not be considered unreasonable.

(b) Whenever, upon complaint, or upon its own initiative, and after hearing held upon reasonable notice, the Commission finds that any individual or joint fare in effect for transportation subject to this Act, or any regulation or practice affecting such fare, is unjust, unreasonable or unduly preferential or unduly discriminatory, the Commission shall issue an order prescribing the lawful fare, regulation, or practice thereafter to be in effect.

Through Routes, Joint Fares

7. (a) In order to encourage and provide adequate transit service on a Metropolitan District-wide basis, any carrier may establish through routes and joint fares with any other carrier subject to this Act or the jurisdiction of the Interstate Com-