

RAILROAD PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE

MONDAY, JULY 8, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND AERONAUTICS,

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,

Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Samuel N. Friedel (chairman

of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. Friedel. The subcommittee will come to order.

This morning the Subcommittee on Transportation and Aeronautics is reopening hearings on the passenger train situation.

We earlier had under consideration H.R. 7004, a bill proposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission to make a few changes in the present law, section 13a of the Interstate Commerce Act, which provides that the Commission may take jurisdiction in certain instances over the abandonment by railroads of both interstate and intrastate passengers.

It became evident that not only was the Commission's authority inadequate, but the Commission itself permitted railroad carriers to flout what authority the Commission had and arbitrarily discontinue trains which had been the subject of a notice of discontinuance to the Commission. The committee then considered S. 2711, which was designed to meet not only this situation but to strengthen the procedures by requiring that the railroads could not drop passenger trains without an order by the Commission.

It appears that the Commission now has become concerned over the seriously deteriorated situation as to railroad passenger service and now has proposed in the instant bill that the discontinuance of trains after investigation can only be by order and has proposed that where such trains are the last operated by the railroad, that the Commission have exclusive jurisdiction and the States be preempted. In addition, the bill which is before us contains suggestions by the Commission that there be an investigation of the passenger train situation. While it seems that this suggestion comes rather tardily, nevertheless, we shall be pleased this morning to hear what the Commission has in mind.

At this point in the record we will include the text of the legislation under consideration.

(The bill, H.R. 18212, follows:)

[H.R. 18212, 90th Cong., second sess.]

A BILL To amend section 13a of the Interstate Commerce Act, to authorize a study of essential railroad passenger service by the Secretary of Transportation, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 13a of part I of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 13a) is amended to read as follows: