

Except for an inconsequential spurt in 1951-1952, rail passenger volume has trended steadily downward since World War II.

At the time Congress was considering the 1958 legislation, the Commission was engaged in an investigation of the passenger-train deficit. The Congressional committees suggested that when the investigation was completed, recommendations be made. The Commission made a number of specific recommendations to Congress, state and local governments, labor, the carriers, the Post Office Department, Department of Defense, and others. Thereafter, substantial local aid materialized for commuter operations and some tax relief was given; but little action resulted to assist intercity rail service.