

remaining mail contracts could substantially increase the carriers' cost of performing passenger service. If the Federal government is going to demonstrate its leadership through a commitment to review the needs and means of providing intercity service, it should not be contributing to the decline of that service until a basic policy has been formulated.

It is apparent that, whatever permanent policy is eventually adopted, the present law contains a number of deficiencies which require reformation and restatement in the context of the present railroad passenger problem along the lines suggested above. We recognize that it will take considerably more for a complete and satisfactory solution to the problem of preserving and improving the country's essential rail passenger service. In testifying before both Committees, the Commission stated that:

It is now clear that traditional regulatory techniques, such as those embraced in section 13a, can serve only a limited purpose and must be joined with forceful and imaginative long range planning, research, and development by the railroads; authorities in local, regional, state and Federal governments, and concerned members or groups of the general public.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Hearings on Passenger Train Service Before the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation of the Senate Committee on Commerce, 90th Cong., 1st Sess., ser. 90-17, pt. 1 at 13 (1967).