

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes of Special Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the District

August 28, 1976

Upon notice duly given, the Board of Directors of the Southern California Rapid Transit District met at a special meeting in the District Board Room, 425 South Main Street, Los Angeles, California, at 11:10 a.m., at which time President Byron E. Cook called the meeting to order.

Directors present:

George W. Brewster
Byron E. Cook
Marvin L. Holen
Mike Lewis
Thomas G. Neusom

Jay B. Price
Ruth E. Richter
Charles H. Storing
George Takei
Baxter Ward (entered at 11:25 a.m.)

Director absent:

Donald Gibbs

Staff present:

Jack R. Gilstrap, General Manager
George W. Heinle, Manager of Operations
Jack Stubbs, Asst. General Manager for Administration
John S. Wilkens, Manager of Employee Relations
Suzanne Gifford, Asst. General Counsel
Joe B. Scatchard, Controller-Treasurer-Auditor
George L. McDonald, Manager of Planning & Marketing
Robert Williams, Manager of Customer Relations
Richard K. Kissick, Secretary

Also present were members of the public and the news media.

Board of Directors Recessed in Executive Session at 11:11 a.m.

On Motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Directors recessed in Executive Session at 11:11 a.m. to consider labor matters.

The Board reconvened at 1:46 p.m. with all Directors responding to Roll Call except Director Donald Gibbs, who was absent from the meeting.

Statement of President Cook

President Cook read into the record the following statement:

"The Board of Directors has met once again in Executive Session concerning the current strike by two of the unions representing our employees.

I note for the record that it is the seventh special meeting the Board of Directors has devoted to this issue since last Spring, and it is the third meeting held since mid-August. I assure you that the Board of Directors is both aware of and sensitive to the inconvenience caused by the lack of bus service in Los Angeles County.

We challenge the union leadership to bring our offer to their membership in a secret supervised ballot. The Board of Directors is consistent in its view that the Governor's Fact Finding Commission report considered certain recommendations for increases in salaries and job benefits for both our drivers and mechanics, and that we believe these recommendations to be eminently fair.

However, in an effort to settle the dispute so that a cessation of bus service would not take place, the Board of Directors authorized our negotiating team to offer our unions more than those increases called for in the impartial Fact Finding Commission Report. The Board of Directors considers that its last offer not only responds to the rather traditional manner in which labor disputes are settled through a series of negotiations, but it also responds to an element which perhaps is new to this situation--and that is that we must respond to the requirements of a new party, the taxpayers of this district who now pay two-thirds of the cost of everything that we do, including the salaries of the bus drivers and mechanics who walked off their jobs.

"In a sense, the unions are not striking an organization called the RTD; in reality, the unions are striking against the taxpayers of Los Angeles County and demanding from the taxpayers that exorbitant amounts of money be poured into their salaries.

A crucial point is our proposal to establish a new employee classification of Bus Service Attendant to fuel and wash buses at a wage of \$5 per hour. Workmen now on those jobs are paid \$6.99 an hour - averaging more than \$20,500 per year in wages and fringe benefits. This is a case as shocking as the famous \$17,000 a year street sweeper in San Francisco. Taxpayers there were so concerned about that one that they reduced the street sweepers' pay at the ballot box.

In short, while the margin of our disagreement may seem small, no additional tax expenditure is considered small by this Board of Directors. We have gone beyond Fact Finding in an effort to put our men and women back on their jobs and restore the public service we provide. It is time for the unions to respond."

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.



Secretary